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Addresses.

SECTION ON OPHTHALMOLOGY.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS, DELIVERED BEFORE THE SECTION ON
OPHTHALMOLOGY, AT THE FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, AT
SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y., JUNE 10-13, 1902.

FRANK ALLPORT, M.D.
CHICAGO.

I am sure it is quite unnecessary for me to assure you, my colleagues, how much I appreciate the honor you have bestowed upon me by permitting me to preside at the meetings of this Section. The Ophthalmological Section of the American Medical Association is, without intending disparagement to the importance of other organizations, the representative association of ophthalmologists in this country. I therefore regard the chairmanship of this Section as the highest ophthalmological gift of American ophthalmologists. Its possession is the more precious, because no taint of political manipulations has ever sullied its reputation. The surest method of not presiding at these meetings is to put forth an effort for such attainment. It has ever come unsolicited. May such conditions ever exist.

The importance of this Section is continually increasing; its membership and attendance is gathering strength and character each year. Its programs are more and more scientific and interesting, and it is sincerely hoped that the one submitted for this meeting may be no exception to the rule. The officers of the Section have endeavored to present a program that would systematically and thoroughly consider a few subjects, rather than one treating of a great variety of topics, and containing the tiresome recitation of numerous cases. We hope and believe that the papers read at this meeting will have a distinct influence upon ophthalmological literature.

The officers of the Section are much gratified at being able to announce that, owing to an invitation extended to Prof. O. Haab of Zurich, Switzerland, last summer, he has journeyed from that distant country expressly to deliver an address before his American colleagues at this meeting. In behalf of this Section, I bid Professor Haab welcome, and extend to him the privileges of the floor, and invite him to freely participate in the discussions of this meeting.

One delightful feature of this gathering not only for our Section, but for every Section, and for the meeting in general, will be the presence amongst us of so many of our friends from the State of New York. The unfortunate and unpleasant barrier which has existed between the American Medical Association and many of the very best members of the New York medical profession is be-

ing broken down, and before long these gentlemen will be sheltered where they rightfully belong, and where they will be enthusiastically welcomed, beneath the broad and ample banner of the American Medical Association. To those who have joined the Association this year, and will work in this Section, we extend a hearty welcome, hoping that their presence amongst us will be an incentive for many others to follow in their footsteps. And now, gentlemen, realizing that the papers are many, and the meeting none too long, and that you will probably see and hear your Chairman too much within the hours of the next few days, I beg to be permitted to bring my few opening remarks to a close, and to make way for other and more interesting speakers.

JACQUES DAVIEL AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MODERN OPERATION OF EX- TRACTION OF CATARACT.

AN ADDRESS COMMEMORATIVE OF THE THIRD SEMI-CEN-
TENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE
FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATION.*

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thalmic Surgeon to the Charity Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital,
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The year 1902 marks the third semi-centennial anniversary of the occasion on which Jacques Daviel promulgated to the world, through the Royal Academy of Surgery of Paris, "A New Method of Curing Cataract by Extracting the Crystalline Lens." It is most fitting that the ophthalmologists of the United States, and, indeed, of the civilized world, recognize the event and pay tribute to the genius of the author. Daviel bequeathed to surgery one of its richest acquisitions and to humanity one of its most beneficent legacies. But I fear that both he and his benefaction are too slightly remembered.

In my studies of his life during the past few years I have been surprised that so little has been said about him, even by his contemporaries, and that the memory of him has been permitted to lapse to such an extent as it has. Even his writings, although not numerous, have never been brought together and published for the edification and profit of our profession.

It becomes, therefore, a double pleasure to me to accept the honor of the invitation of the chairman of the Section of Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association to deliver an address on Jacques Daviel at this time, that I may both revive the memory of one of

* Read at the Fifty-third Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, in the Section on Ophthalmology, and approved for publication by the Executive Committee: Drs. Casey A. Wood, H. V. Würdemann and J. A. Lippincott.