ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENr'

"FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PATIENTS"

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TN choosing my text I have cited that pledge in 1 the Oath of Hippocrates which avows that:
"The regimen I adopt shall be lor the benefit of the pa.tients according to my ability and judgment and not for their hurt or for any wrong."

It is only Jour years ago we met in the Clini. cal Congress that marked the end of World War lI, with afeeJing of elation and pride that our coun-try with its Allies

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Medicine unquestionably stemmed from the
sympa.thy of man for man and this basic tenet
should hold as fundamental to our rracuce today.
Most of us entered medical schoo with the goal
of improving the lot of mankind and not with the
idea of developing a business. For thousands of years the care of the sick was in the hands of the priest and medicine man. The Greek! sepa.ra.ted. science from philosophy and re~onl but there lingers in the mind of man a.n Idea that there should sb11 exist some relationship between them. Today when the ~08is il grave or hope1ell, there ~ the deme and hope for a. miracle. Christianity replaced paganism and for over a thousand years science was in eclipse, but during this period some provision fl1l the care of the sick was made by the pious foundation of hospitals in which was emulated the conduct of the Good Samaritan. The humanitarian and charitable pro32 0 0 9.9 1617undation

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k.eys to her many mysterieS; men who uncon- sCIously, perhaps, in character and conduct, reflect
in varying degree the life and spirit of the Great

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the aim of better ca.re for the sick and injunxL.
Although we seek. no commendation, we should be
credited with "a desire to relieve suffering for its
own sake.1) I think this is known to and felt by
the people, and accounts for the higb esteem with
which the College is regarded by them.
Recent a«umulations of scientific scientif716 Tc 9.6av

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not yet had their d.inical work. m the medical

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ance we cannot overlook certain obstacles to their universal acceptance. One is interposed. the State. which a.llows members of other systems of healing to practice their arts under protection of Medical Praetic.e Acta. A large group of "jrregu-!a.rs" now bas, 80 far u can be determined, over seven hundred hospitals where surgical procedures are carried out by individuals who 1adt completely the type of training 011. which we insist. We disap-prove heartily, but appear powerless to eradicate the evil. It is perhaps an indication of how State control of medicine would impair the standards we have labored SO earnestly to establish. Another. and I think 1e1!8 aerious, attack. has been launched against high standards by certain members of our own profession who assume that the right conferred upon them by the States or Provinces to practice medicine and surgery car-riea also the right to carry out any swgical pro-cedure that they m&y wish to attempt, rega.rdle88 of their skills. I cannot believe that the medir.al profeasion as a whole will condone such 888UDl.p-tion. Society would be justified in taking drastic steps to change our way of medical pmctice if ever we espouse the doctrine tb&t the physician has

~ta that supersede the rights of the pa.tient to skilled and competent care.
We are ~d of the record of the College, of un-selfish striving toward a sin~le goal-the good. of the patient-itis beyond criticism. While the