THE SIGNIFICANCE AND RELATIONSHIPS OF THE THOMAS HENRY SIMPSON MEMORIAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Today you have opened a research institute, dedicated to the study of an important and serious disease. May I not present to you some thoughts as to the significance and relationships of such an institute?

But first let me congratulate the faculty of medicine and the medical students of the University of Michigan on the possession of the Thomas Henry Simpson Memorial Institute for Medical Research, and the donor on the wisdom evinced by the form of her gift as a memorial to her late husband. To you, Mrs. Simpson, would I say that I feel certain that this gift will prove a source of real pleasure and great pride to you as you follow its work. However, the span of your life, and we trust it may be long, will be but a brief space of time in the life of the institution you have founded; as a memorial it will stand and be a productive institution for unnumbered years to come. Few, if any things, are more permanent than institutions of learning and hospitals. In history they have survived dynasties and peoples; their forms may change, but the spirit lives on; buildings crumble and fall, but the idea, embodied in the foundation, is immortal. So we may anticipate that, opening to-day, the Thomas Henry Simpson Memorial Institute for Medical Research will in some form last as long as does our civilization or a superior one.

Through all the ages there has been some form of quest to fire the zeal of man. In the days of chivalry such a quest was typified by the search for the Holy Grail,

"That so perchance the vision may be seen
By thee and those, and all the world be heal’d."

A little later and the quest took the form of exploration and settlement of new lands. Now, with unexplored lands almost non-existent, the quest has shifted to investigation, the search for truth and the discovery of new facts. Investigation has become the Holy Grail of science, and the quest in this form stirs the imagination and fires the zeal of a new type of Sir Galahad, to

1 An address delivered at the opening of the Institute, University of Michigan, February 10, 1927.