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PRESENTATION OF THE KOBER MEDAL TO DR. WILLIAM H. WELCH¹

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REMARKS OF GEORGE M. KOBER
Mr. President and Colleagues:

DR. WARTHIN doubtless with great self-denial, which I deeply appreciate, has assigned to me the most pleasing function in my life, to pay tribute on behalf of this association to William Henry Welch, the father of scientific medicine in America, and the most respected and beloved member of the medical profession. No words of mine can add luster to the laurel wreaths which have been bestowed upon him both at home and abroad, and worn with his innate modesty and dignity for so many years.

It may, however, be a source of inspiration to the younger generation of this association to recount briefly the achievements of a man to whom this country and the world is so greatly indebted.²

Dr. Welch was graduated in 1875 at a time when the outlook for the future of scientific medicine seemed brighter than ever before. Pathology under the leadership of Virchow and his pupils had made tremendous strides, and with the birth of bacteriology there was also a ray of hope for the prevention of human suffering and distress.

Welch, with his high ideals and noble aspirations, and conscious of the defects in our medical educational system, was determined to prepare himself well for the practice of one of the most difficult and responsible of all professions. In order to lay the foundations in modern pathology, he journeyed to Strassburg in the spring of 1876, where he pursued studies in normal histology under Waldeyer, physiological chemistry with Hoppe-Seyler and post-mortem demonstrations by von Recklinghausen. Later he went to Leipzig for further work in histology and physiology with Ludwig and Kronecker.

Among foreign students were Pawlow and Drechsel and Flechsig. Welch, in addition to his regular courses, was set by Ludwig to study the ganglia and nerves of the auricular septum of the frog's heart with the gold chloride impregnation method, in the course of which he actually brought into view the

¹ By the Association of American Physicians for Research in Scientific Medicine.

² See Simon Flexner's exhaustive Introduction to the Contributions and Addresses of Professor Welch published on his seventieth anniversary, 1920.

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