To

SIR THOMAS BARLOW, Bart.,
K.C.V.O., F.R.S., M.D.,

Born September 4th, 1845

On the occasion of his
90TH BIRTHDAY.
INTRODUCTION

BY

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To introduce these essays, written in honour of the man who is so easily, and so notably, the doyen of British medicine, is a very pleasant duty. That the writer's clinical alma mater is not Barlow's has not biased the Editor unfavourably. What has had more weight with him is his knowledge that the relations of teacher and pupil have existed for forty years and that they have engendered a degree of respect and affection in the disciple which have amounted almost to adoration.

But of Barlow it might be said more truly perhaps than of any of his contemporaries, that he is of no one school, but of all. This is to say that he has been too great to be parochialized. As to the emotion excited in the younger man by the older, the same may surely be said of all the contributors of this volume, as also of hundreds of others who have come under the sway of that genially virile personality.

An illustrated magazine recently published an article upon medical men who doctored members of the royal household. The photograph which accompanied the paragraph referring to Sir Thomas Barlow was that of his distinguished son. The error has a symbolism which is both true and beautiful, for the vigour of robust manhood has remained with Barlow much longer than it is wont to do with men of his age. Though it is many years since his colleagues have been deprived of that wealth of experience, sound judgment and cheery helpfulness they invariably got from him, he has retained an active interest in many affairs that have as their object human betterment in general and the welfare of the medical profession in particular. He has continued until now to infuse vitality into every institution and movement in which he has taken a part.

At the time Barlow was making his most important contributions to medical knowledge his contemporaries included, in this country, such stalwarts as Hughlings Jackson, Gowers, Hutchinson, Gee and Cheadle; in France, Charcot, Houchard and Pierre Marie. Though his influence on general medicine was great, it is in the special sphere of diseases of children that his main efforts lay and it is here that his name will live as long as the history of medicine continues to be written. It is very appropriate, therefore, that this Birthday Volume should contain a symposium which deals with various aspects of the disease which Barlow discovered. It illustrates the enormous field that such a discovery laid open as well as the extent of the penetration into it which his pupils and followers have achieved.

This book is presented to Sir Thomas Barlow with admiration and affection, with sincere congratulations upon his ninetieth birthday, and with fervent hopes that he may remain amongst them a long time yet to stimulate and to inspire.