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FAREWELL.

It is not without emotion that, after having been concerned with the editing of this Journal for a period of over twenty-two years, I find myself compelled to leave India and to relinquish what I have always found a pleasant and improving task. Acutely conscious of much shortcoming, the occupation has constituted more a pastime than a burden in the midst of multifarious and harassing duties; and though my efforts have fallen very far short of my ideal, I have nevertheless, with the unsolicited aid of a host of co-workers, piloted the *Indian Medical Gazette* through a longer period of life than has, I believe, fallen to the lot of any medical journal in India. This fact constitutes and will remain during the rest of my life a source of much satisfaction and thankfulness.

As to the manner in which the work has been done, it is not for me to write; but this I may be permitted to say, that I have had the interest of this Journal very deeply at heart, and have spared no pains, in so far as time and opportunity permitted, to render it a fitting vehicle for the presentation and preservation of medical work in India. This has been the leading object which I have held in view in conducting this Journal, and I have always sought to render it an instrument of eliciting and encouraging observation, research, and reflection in India, rather than a means of imparting knowledge gained by other men in other countries. I have in obedience to this aim, as far as possible, eschewed medical and service politics; and when I found myself compelled to write on such subjects, endeavoured, while upholding the rights and honour of the profession and services, to allay irritation, discourage extreme views, and

present matters in as reasonable and unimpassioned a light as I could. At the same time, although this Journal has been from its commencement till now largely supported by Government for the benefit of its medical employés, its tone, I venture to say, has never been cringing, and freedom and independence of opinion and judgment have always been aimed at. The same attitude has been maintained in criticising the work and writings of others, even at the risk, which on one memorable occasion became a reality, of bringing publisher and editor into trouble.

Although I am forced by circumstances to vacate the editorial chair, I hope still, from time to time, to contribute useful information to the pages of the *Indian Medical Gazette*. I have the satisfaction of knowing that my place will be filled by a competent and tried occupant, and I would bespeak for him the same willing and valuable assistance which I have always obtained from medical men, official and non-official, who have selected India as their field of occupation. It is my earnest desire and hope that the *Indian Medical Gazette* may for many years to come fulfil a useful purpose in India, and continue to grow in interest and importance, as rational and inductive medical science, which has already gained a firm footing in this country, commends itself more and more to the acceptance of Indian peoples.

K. McLEOD.

FETCH THE DOCTOR.

THE popular belief is that the services of a doctor are at the disposal of the public at any moment of the day or night; it is considered to be his duty to respond promptly to any call regardless of all personal considerations, and if he fails to do so, he is branded with inhumanity, if not brutality. There are occasions — emergencies in which life is acutely at stake — when scruple or delay is almost criminal. On such occasions the call for aid and the response to that call constitute an imperative duty. Every medical man, whose heart is in the right place, who is imbued with true professional instinct, will gladly, nay eagerly, sacrifice personal convenience or comfort for the purpose of hurrying to the rescue of life in peril, or the relief of a human being in pain; but, setting these cases of real