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GORDON D. HOOPLE, M.D.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

In addressing you as the President of the American Otological Society, I am deeply conscious of the great honor you have bestowed in electing me to this office. It is an honor which I esteem highly. You may realize I have long held a reverence for this Society, the oldest ear society in the world, when I tell you that I applied for membership in it only four years after my residency was completed. My application was promptly rejected, a reward I richly deserved for such a display of audacity. However, this rejection increased my respect for the Society, and I was happy indeed when I was elected to membership more than ten years later. There followed a few intervening years after which came the secretaryship, and finally the presidency. Of the fifty-two Otological Society presidents (and there have been only fifty-two, for in the earlier years, presidents sometimes held office for as long as five years), seven have been elevated to the presidency from the secretary's office. So, if you have ambitions, get yourself elected to the secretaryship, work hard for the Society for a few years, and you may be chosen president. But do not count on it. The third secretary of the Society served in that capacity for nineteen years, and he was not rewarded with the presidency.

It is a sobering thought that not everyone can be elected to this office. There are not enough years to go around. One realizes that others more worthy and suited are excluded. It behooves the occupant to give his best thought to the year of service which is his. This I have striven to do. The program which will follow is testimony to that.

It has been a great pleasure to serve you this year, to work with the members of the Council who have graciously given me their support, and last, but by no means least, to have had the loyalty and devotion of our genial and very worthy secretary, Dr. John Lindsay. For all these reasons, I wish to express with great humility my appreciation of this honor and say a heartfelt, "thank you."