

Dr. Carson related a case of hæmatemesis which he had treated without styptics. Noticing that she had the pulse of high arterial tension, he had given her bromide of potash to dilate the capillaries, and gray powder to act on the bowels. On a second occasion nitrite of amyl proved equally efficacious in relieving her.

SANITARY CONVENTION AT OTTAWA.

This Convention met in the City Hall at 11 a.m., March 11th. Dr. Sweetland, of Ottawa, in the chair, welcomed the gentlemen who had come to hold their annual meeting in Ottawa. The object of the Association was to disseminate sanitary knowledge amongst the mass of the people. He hoped the ladies would also attend, as they were so largely interested in sanitary reforms.

His Worship, the Mayor of Ottawa, welcomed the delegates, hoping the city would reap much benefit from the meeting.

Amongst those present were Drs. Oldright, Covernton, Cassidy, Canniff and Bryce, of Toronto; Mr. Boxer, Montreal; Drs. Hill, Robillard, S. Wright, Baptie, Playter, and Henderson, of Ottawa; Landerkin, M.P., and Rae, of Oshawa; M. Guerin, C.E., and others.

Dr. Oldright read an introductory address, in which he pointed out the importance of Hygiene, and how frequently it was overlooked. Sanitary reforms had effected a very great saving of life. Nearly one and a half lives per 1,000 had been saved yearly by means of the reforms introduced since 1875. Applied to Ontario this would mean a yearly saving of 2,800 lives. The institution of local boards of health, with power to carry out sanitary reforms, were responsible for this good. Doubtless, if in Ontario we could have such local boards, a very great proportion of the deaths from contagious diseases and from consumption could be prevented. The time was approaching when the Dominion would require a sanitary board. The Dominion Government alone being able to deal with the importation of disease by immigrants, the adulteration of food, prevention of loss of life in factories, and quarantine and vital statistics. These matters would furnish sufficient work to occupy the time and attention of a Dominion Board and prevent any fear of interference with Provincial

Boards. There was also much that could be done conjointly by the Dominion and Provincial Boards. The Provincial Board of Health had accomplished a vast deal of work since it was organized, though much remained to be done. An effort was being made to establish local boards throughout the Province in order to carry out sanitary suggestions that may be made.

Dr. Covernton said that in the last ten years the death rate in Great Britain was diminished by 300,000 as compared with the rate of the previous decade. He instanced the death rate in the hospitals of the Crimea with that of the hospitals during the American War—seventy-five per cent. of the French soldiers dying in the former, while in the latter only thirty-four per cent. died. He said that he regarded the accumulation of filth as the gunpowder and the disease germ as the spark—when they are brought together there is necessarily an explosion.

Dr. Robillard expressed his pleasure at seeing the Convention in Ottawa. He hoped much good would result from the Convention. He knew of many cases of disease caused by sewer gas escaping into houses.

Mr. Boxer said that last year thirty-one per cent. of the deaths in Montreal were from zymotic diseases, and in almost every case he had investigated the drains had been found defective.

At the afternoon session Dr. Canniff read a paper on the "Sanitary Education of the Masses."

Dr. Baptie delivered an address illustrated by numerous diagrams, on the ventilation of private dwellings.

Dr. Covernton read a paper on "The Abuse of Alcohol." He was not opposed to the moderate use of good wine. The principal beverage of the French peasantry was a light claret, and drunkenness existed among them to a very slight degree. He considered that the want of food led to the abuse of alcoholic stimulants quite as much as drunkenness conduced to poverty, and the drunkard in many cases was entitled to pity and assistance.

Mr. Woods, M.A., read a paper on "School Hygiene;" Dr. Bryce on "Zymotic Diseases;" Mr. Boxer, C.E., of Montreal, on "Hidden Causes of Disease Exposed;" and Dr. Roger, on "Prevention Better than Cure, or Ventilation vs. Quarantine."