

merely for a "medical conference," for the "discussion of medical and surgical questions on a common basis" without either Association losing, or wishing to lose, its identity.

But union of the two Associations is of the near future, and in a way little dreamed of, perhaps, by the superficial observer. History tells us that absorption usually goes on from the north. The statistics recently furnished show a birth-rate for some parts of Canada which has never been equalled. In the city of Montreal, last year, the birth-rate was 49 per 1000, and the French Canadian element alone gave 64 per 1000, the largest birth-rate that has ever been reached. Union, amalgamation, absorption, are of the near and certain future, therefore, if our large birth-rate, and the alarmingly small birth-rate in some of the States of the adjoining Union, continue as at present.

PÆTICIDE.

Here, gentlemen, my somewhat lengthy address should end, but yielding to the solicitations of some of my medical friends, and impelled at the same time by a sense of duty, I venture to touch upon a matter of extreme delicacy, but of vital moment. It is asserted by an American writer, (Dr. Allen,) that in *certain* classes of society in some parts of the adjoining Union, for a long time past the marriage relation would seem to be regarded, not as a Divine institution ordained by God for the preservation of the species, but as a matter of convenience and self-interest. To use his own words: "the standard of living is too high; the artificial wants are too many; confinement to household duties is irksome; children are a burden; the responsibilities of maternity must be avoided or limited. Hence in married life a series of 'nameless acts' take place, which need not be described." In those few grave, weighty, momentous sentences, gentlemen, are contained a picture of some of the chief causes of that alarming decline of birth-rate, and with it, and as a consequence of it, a gradual and pernicious change in the female physical organization. This, in thoughtful minds, has created alarm lest the *induced* organization become permanent in type. I know not how to enter upon the subject without running some risk of offending reserved and modest sensibilities. The crime I have faintly alluded to is but the logical outcome of those theories of genesis and of population which have been so enticingly placed before us by some very eminent scientists in latter years. There was a time when the birth-