

The Dominion Medical Journal,

A MONTHLY RECORD OF

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE.

LLEWELLYN BROCK, M.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, APRIL 1869.

For some years the subject of Hospital accommodation for those sufferers who are too poor to pay for regular medical attendance, has occupied the attention of physicians, philanthropists, and members of the Legislature; and we were reminded of this subject by noticing a case of extreme hardship, reported in the *Toronto Globe* a few weeks ago: it was that of a poor man, who it seems was forwarded from Guelph to the Toronto General Hospital for medical attendance, and refused there from not having the necessary means or order to obtain admittance into that institution. We believe such cases as this are of frequent occurrence, and are a disgrace to any christian community to remedy this, the proposal of hospital divisions of the different sections of the country has been suggested. The cities of Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, and London, already contain such institutions for the relief of those wanting medical aid, although these may seem to some who are unacquainted with the subject, ample provision for the wants of our community; still it is evident to physicians how necessary that those who require aid should obtain it as early as possible and without the danger of having to travel over a great deal of ground to obtain it.

An immense number of people are and have to be supported by the charitable in the back counties during a long illness, when, if they could obtain that skilful medical aid which they require, they would often be enabled to attend to their duties, and cease from being a burden on those who already have sufficient burdens to bear. To provide for this want, it has been proposed to divide the Province into hospital divisions, and levying a special tax upon the community, which tax we have no doubt would be willingly borne by the ratepayers for the sake of this great boon to the country.

We would wish also to touch upon another subject in connection with this, and one that will be admitted willingly by the profession at large;—that is, the great benefit that will accrue to country practitioners from being enabled to put into practice and test those new remedies and plans of treatment pursued in all the large hospitals. Here the profession can obtain the use of those instru-

ments without which their treatment must often be vain. We refer to the microscope, ophthalmoscope, laryngoscope, various atomizing apparatus, etc.: and the wealthier part of the community would share in the benefits by the increased skill of their physicians. Here the medical students could obtain that hospital practice which they so much require, and without which it is impossible for them to enter upon their duties with confidence in their own abilities. This would not do away with their hospital attendance in large cities, but would give them a practical knowledge of their profession during the summer months. We sincerely hope the time is not far distant when some such scheme will be carried into effect. Until then, distressing cases of the kind we have referred to will be frequent, and will impose upon the charitable still further the duties which they heretofore so kindly have performed.

A MEETING of the Profession was held at the Canadian Institute, on Friday night the 19th of March, to take into consideration the measures necessary for the reception of the members of the Canada Medical Association, (the meeting of which takes place in this City on the second Wednesday of September, 1869,) Dr. Hodder in the chair. The Chairman explained the object of the meeting, and impressed upon the Profession the necessity of unanimity of action and feeling, so as to do honour to the occasion and uphold the fair name of our City and Province. One or two general resolutions were carried, and the meeting adjourned *sine die*. In connection with this meeting, we would impress upon the Profession in this City the importance and necessity on their part of the most perfect accord and liberality of sentiment; without this, the meeting of the Association cannot be as successful as its friends would desire.

We feel confident that the Profession throughout the Province will do their duty by attending in large numbers, and thus signifying their wish for the success of the Association. Gentlemen who are preparing, or who intend to read papers, should signify their intention to the Special Committee appointed for the reception of such papers.

Editorial Notices.

We have received from the firm of Codman & Shurtleff one each of their Steam and Hand Atomizers. We have used both, and shown them to several physicians in the city, who unite in considering them as very valuable for use in the various affections of the throat and lungs, where inhalation is necessary. Their price is such as to place them within reach of every physician. We