

founding the present system of medical representation and legislation, has done much to consolidate and elevate the profession; yet we do not assume to be beyond improvement. The general profession and the Medical Council seem too far removed from each other, and there is not so much sympathy between them as there might be. The terms of office are too long. Three years are quite sufficient, so that the constituents may be more often enabled to express their views and call their representatives to account for their actions. A part of the examiners should be selected outside the Medical Council and teaching bodies. Some legislation respecting suits for malpractice is required; the time for bringing them should be limited, and proof produced that there is some reasonable ground for action. The majority of these suits are groundless, yet they oblige the defence to undergo a large amount of derogatory criticism and expense. Another point is quite necessary, that is the power to expel unworthy members. The actions of a few are so gross and degrading, that their full membership is a stigma to our name. The legal profession, I believe, have power to unbar members for certain offences; this action is not only necessary to punish offenders, but to prevent their recurrence. I must not forget that part of our laws which provides for the establishment of Territorial Medical Associations. One of the great needs of the profession was to be brought together, that we might know each other better, and thus learn to value each other more. It is such knowledge that makes us more tolerant and sympathetic. We institute codes of ethics, and it is well that we should do so, but they must be founded upon genuine regard and respect for those with whom we meet. This desirable result is produced in the most agreeable and profitable manner by these associations. I can testify that this Association has been of great benefit to many of its members socially, professionally, and financially, also. Harmony, mutual assistance, and appreciation have taken, in many instances, the place of their opposites. This good result would be, of course, greatly increased, should a larger number take part in this Association and steadily support it. However, there are many, whether residents in Chatham, Sarnia, Windsor or Strathroy, that are still faithful to its interests. I consider our legislative functions, such as tariff of fees, places of meeting, questions of ethics—are

quite subordinate to that more delightful and profitable part. The reading of papers and consequent discussions refreshes the mind of every participant, enables every one to measure himself and find out his own short-comings; he can feel his weak points, and see views that are erroneous; or it consolidates some views already entertained—adds new facts to the stock already acquired. We are too apt to get into grooves; these meetings help us to get out again. Professor Alonzo Clark says it is hard to keep the medical profession plumb, they have a strong tendency to swing from one extreme to another. Our mutual discussions will do much to keep us near the true centre. These meetings incite professional readings and studies, and render necessary closer observation of the varied and interesting phenomena every day presented to us. Professor Flint says much of his success is due to close observation and careful note taking. Facts of our own collection are the best premises from which to draw new conclusions. A paper containing any *new fact*, and properly applied, is worth many compilations from standard authors and periodicals. This Association can appoint committees whose duties shall be to gather statistics and other facts relating to important epidemics, such as cerebro-spinal meningitis, scarlatina, malaria, typhoid fever, etc. Facts of great interest may be gathered relative to climatic influence. Another field would be to note the various forms in which the laws of health are interfered with; for though we practise the healing art, we are yet the natural guardians of the public health. While speaking of the work of our Association, may I suggest that each member here to day make an especial effort not only to be present at our next meeting, but to induce another to come with him. We all can probably do more than we have hitherto, to make it the model Association of the Province. Our transactions are interesting and valuable papers, and will increase in value with our own efficiency. Medicine is now making a gratifying advance. Formerly it contained so much based upon routine ideas—so much of mystery and empiricism—that it was looked upon as an association of occult sciences. It has nobly won a much higher character. The assiduity with which the natural sciences have been cultivated has much to do with this elevation. The sciences of chemistry, physiology, and morbid anatomy have laid a foundation for