

drunken women in connection with the women's department of your work; and, fourthly, with regard to the establishment of a city hospital for the treatment of the more hopeful class of cases.

I would suggest that these recommendations be deferred until next meeting.

CORRECT DIAGNOSIS AND ITS NECESSITY.

By DR. A. E. HARVEY, Wyoming, Ont.

Diagnosis may be said to be the science of recognizing disease, and of distinguishing one disease from another. When we have come to a conclusion on these points, that conclusion is also called our diagnosis.

In a paper the length of this we can only discuss the general principles. To form a correct diagnosis we should study the different pathological characteristics of each individual case, and carefully analyze every symptom, whether objective or subjective, taking neither the patient's nor friend's word for anything more than what it is worth to confirm our own finding, but relying on our own judgment; that, however, is strengthened if corroborated by the history of the case as gleaned from other sources. To enable us to thus come to an independent diagnosis, we must first have a correct knowledge of the several organs of the human system, anatomically and physiologically, when in health, as it is only by this knowledge, and by comparing the condition we find with our ideal of that organism in health that we can arrive at a correct scientific conclusion based on the real pathological condition of our patient. I would not have you think that I ignore any information gleaned from either patient, nurse or friends, but, as they are given, compare each of them with the condition in which we find the patient, and value their weight or throw them out altogether whichever they deserve.

What we have to deal with is the present condition of the patient, but in order to come to a positive conclusion after we have exhausted our objective symptoms, we should get the history of the patient, history of his present illness, his condition immediately before the present illness, with a few ideas of his family history.

As I am not talking to school boys, or first-year students—though I believe among us are more thorough and energetic students than the average in our universities—I shall not go into the minutiae of all the means which we may bring to bear on the case to form or confirm our conclusion, such as the position of the patient, sex, heredity, temperament, season, climate, town or country residence, age, existence or absence of epidemics. All of these should be considered, and if the case is obscure each of them weighed accurately. In addition to these means we have many ingenious and valuable instruments, a large number of which are practical and uncomplicated, a few of which I will briefly mention. As to the stethoscope and its modifications I must say, however, that when I am through pleasing the patient by using the stethophone, I always make my examination with the naked ear afterward.

The test tube and chemical reagents are not among the least of our means of diagnosis and deserve more space than can be given here, and in