

be bamboozled by a few designing and disgruntled medical men into taking up a quarrel which in no sense concerns them, and announcing as a plank of their platform, their intention of preventing medical men from dealing themselves with flagrant offences against the code of ethics, there would seem to be but little difference between the boasted "bone and sinew" of this country and the beggarly "masses" of effete monarchies in the East.

### INCREASE OF LUNACY.

The subject of the increase of lunacy is one of deep interest to every one, but more especially to the members of the medical profession. It is easy to say that nature is constantly adapting herself to our changed conditions and environment and that the human race is in a better physical state to-day than ever before. But the recent, forty-eighth report of the British Commissioners on Lunacy shows an increase of 2,245 persons coming under the category of lunatics, idiots, and persons of unsound mind. This is the largest increase in the number of lunatics yet reported. The report goes on to say: "This large increase calls the more for some special consideration, because it follows an increase of 1,974 in the preceding year, that being far above the average for the ten years 1882 to 1892, which was only 1,300. The increase seems to have been fairly general throughout England and Wales, but the predominant feature of the figures is the great increase shown in the County of London, its pauper lunatics numbering on January 1st, 800 more than they did a year previously. It is perhaps right in this connection to point out that from the administrative County of Middlesex, which is fast becoming metropolitan, there is shown from last year an excessive increase of 103, against an average for the previous ten years of 42."

There are some considerations which must be taken as an offset to the very gloomy outlook as shown by the above-mentioned report. Thus it appears that the greatly improved treatment of insanity in the past two decades, and a greater willingness of the public to enter asylums, has succeeded, on the one hand in keeping alive numbers who under less favorable conditions would have died; thus increasing the numbers

showing in reports; and, on the other hand, bringing to light many cases which were formerly kept concealed by relatives and friends, which also would increase the reported numbers. Again, the increase in population has something to do with increase in the number of lunatics, though we are not aware that the former is keeping pace with the latter. So much has been said by both the medical and lay press during the past few years, and the general mind having been pretty well made up on the subject, it is encouraging to find any reasons, such as those above cited, to show that the increase is not so rapid as might at the first consideration be supposed, and that the nations as nations are not becoming insane.

### THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNÆCOLOGISTS.

This live society met for the current year in Toronto. Its sessions were held in the Medical Council Chamber, on the 19th, 20th and 21st of Sept., and both scientifically and socially the gathering was a pronounced success. With Dr. G. H. Robé as President, and Dr. William Warren Potter as Secretary, it goes without saying that a programme calculated to bring out excellent work had been perfected in every detail, and with a very full attendance of the fellows, success was assured. The subjects taken up were varied and full of interest, and the discussions to which they gave rise were, as a rule, well sustained.

A most cordial invitation to attend was extended to the profession of this city and province, and this was largely taken advantage of. The listener could not but recognize that he was in the presence of a set of earnest and progressive scientists, men who have taken no inconsiderable part in the evolution of Gynæcology, in transforming it from a routine of palliative topical applications and pessary adjustments, to the most advanced and most beneficent of all the specialties. Many of those present were men of more than American reputation, and their handling of "Appendicitis," of "Perineal Operations," of "The Abdominal Incision," and of "Intestinal Anastomosis," was strong, rich and sometimes masterly.