

It is also to be hoped that, when one or two of their brethren are attacked, the other councillors, whose sentiments and opinions these gentlemen so plainly and emphatically uttered, will have the manliness to stand up and support them, as is their duty, and not raise up earthworks of trifling technicalities behind which to entrench themselves. We can assure such gentlemen that their actions will be very easily given their proper value by their supporters in the profession. I write this latter part, having to my surprise heard of a "weak brother" to-day.

Yours, etc.,

CONC. CRESC.

Toronto, Sept. 7th, '83.

### Reports of Societies.

#### CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

(Held in Kingston, Sept. 5th, 6th and 7th, '83).

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Canada Medical Association took place in Kingston on the 5th, 6th and 7th ult., under the presidency of Dr. Mullin, of Hamilton. In the absence of the Treasurer, Dr. Sheard was appointed in his stead. The Association was welcomed by the Mayor of Kingston on behalf of the city, Prof. Williamson on behalf of Queen's College, and Dr. Sullivan on behalf of the profession. The following delegates and visitors were invited to the platform: Dr. Hunt, Pontiac, Mich.; Dr. Walker, Detroit; Dr. McLean, Ann Arbor, Mich., and Dr. Dorland, Milwaukee; also ex-presidents and vice-presidents of the Association. After routine, the reports of committees were called for.

Dr. Canniff, chairman of the committee on "Sanitation and Vital Statistics," reported that the committee had not met because, as chairman, he had been frustrated in continuing the efforts by which the Medical Association had succeeded in inducing the Government to grant a sum of money for the purpose named. While he was kept in ignorance of the steps that were being made to confer with the Government, other Toronto men were appointed, and, only on explaining the relationship of Dr. Canniff in attempting to secure a Government grant was he placed on the deputation.

Explanations were made by Dr. Playter and Dr.

Larocque. They said there had been no intention to ignore the committee. The report was adopted.

Dr. Larocque, of Montreal, presented the report of the committee on "Climatology and Public Health." The report exhaustively discussed the best means of protecting the public health. The report was received and a vote of thanks accorded to Dr. Larocque.

Drs. Botsford, Fenwick, Grant, Graham, Rodger, Bray, Worthington, Malloch, Oliver, Tye, Sweetland, Canniff, Oldright, Yeomans and the President were appointed the Nominating Committee.

Dr. Metcalf invited the Association to visit the Asylum, at their convenience.

In the afternoon session the President delivered his address, of which the following is an abstract. He thanked the members for electing him to the high position. The honor might have justly passed to others, but as he had been elected he would do all in his power to discharge the duties. He referred in feeling terms to the demise of Dr. David, of Montreal, Dr. Campbell, of Montreal, and Dr. Thomas Watson. Some had thought the itinerancy system was opposed to the Association's usefulness, but he held that advantages had been derived from every place where they had met. They met now in this old city, the very cradle of civilization of the Western section. Every member recognizes that the institutions of this city remain worthy of Eastern Ontario and exercise their influences over the youth of the present with increased vigor corresponding to the growth of the country. He then alluded to some of the investigations recently made respecting the influence of minute organisms in causing disease. Lister stands foremost in advancing this branch of professional knowledge. His antiseptic method of treatment may not be, and indeed is not considered by himself an ultimate result beyond which it is impossible to pass, but the great merit of his work is, he first called attention to the agencies which effect the decomposition of organic substances. The modern treatment of wounds shows the pressing importance not only of preventing decomposition, but of recognizing what are its causes. Many successful practitioners agree with Dr. Gamgee, who says, "That he has never been troubled with the idea that infection is always floating in the atmosphere, ready to settle in the shape of impalpable and implacable germs into any breach which may be made in the surface of a living body, and that he believes life to be the great antiseptic."

As regards the practice of medicine, it is an important though difficult question to determine to what extent vegetable forms operate in the production of ordinary fevers. Dr. Murchison, in '75, at