

paper will be discussed and the members will find that they cannot afford to miss the yearly gathering.

How few of our city physicians were present—about eighty in all. The majority of the remaining 270 should feel ashamed of themselves. The loss is theirs, however, in many ways, as those who did attend know by experience.

Dr. Hillary presided most pleasantly, and the Irish that was in him appeared when he insisted that the ladies should take the front benches and ordered the grey-heads of the Association to vacate for the purpose.

Socially, the meeting was a huge success; the private luncheons, the entertainment provided by the Victoria Hospital, the luncheon at Webb's provided by the Toronto members, with its flow of soul claret and sprudel-wasser, and last, but not least, the Island excursion, with the sail on the lake, and the abounding generosity of Mr. J. Ross Robertson, all combined to make every man feel well satisfied that he attended the Association in June, 1893.

BEWARE OF CHOLERA.

The most modern methods of sewage disposal is that of the water carriage system. It is only of recent date that consideration has been given to the disposal of sewage, especially human excreta; the term sewage is generally applied to refuse matters such as human excreta, kitchen and chamber wastes from habitations and collections of habitations, but it is more especially applied to human excreta. Prior to about 1850, there were no special places set apart for the deposition of excreta, but it was deposited in any convenient locality, regardless of its proximity to any human habitation. In the seventh report of the medical officer of the Privy Council of England, dated 1861, it is stated of a town in England that "in the majority of cases even in the centre of the town no accommodation of any kind is provided, and hence the adult male population defaectate habitually in the gardens, parks, or in the roads"; as late as 1866, many houses and courts under \$5.00 per month rental in larger towns and cities of England were unprovided with any accommodation, the filth from the upper stories of the houses being commonly discharged into the court or street. In comparison with such a state of

affairs, what can be more surprising than to find in some of our Canadian cities conditions of a more serious character. In the city of Toronto, adjoining Yonge street (one of the principal thoroughfares) on either side many privy pits, numbering in the hundredths, exist at this writing, some wholly or partially located under the kitchen or shop floor, others only two or three feet distant from the kitchen or shop door or window, and the vast majority scarcely ever exceed the distance of twenty-five feet; similar conditions exist on Queen Street East and West, Adelaide Street, Richmond Street, in fact all streets in the older portions of Toronto. Many of these privy pits are connected to the public sewer by either a four, six or nine inch drain; these, after being in operation for a short time become obstructed by reason of there being no water supply to convey the solids into the public sewer and thence to a proper outlet, thus causing a nuisance dangerous to the community, especially to the occupants of houses through the basement and cellars of which such "privy drains" pass. Where such a privy drain has been constructed, a wooden sink has been built and connected to the privy drain midway between the privy pit and public sewer to serve as a receiver for liquid house wastes. The general location of these sinks is either outside of the house convenient to the kitchen door, or in the kitchen; in the majority of cases they are in the kitchen. The wooden sink and the wooden connection to the drain is in itself very objectionable, in that the wood is a ready absorbent of liquid filth; the worst feature, however, of a sink connected to a privy drain is that it readily permits the most vile and poisonous gases to escape into the dwelling from the privy drain containing the deposits of decomposed excreta, thus exposing the occupants to the most extreme danger; in the event of a pressure occurring in the public sewer, the privy drain acting as a relieving agent provides a channel by which the sewer gas has easy access into the house. Many hundreds of premises in Toronto can readily be pointed out where such circumstances have existed and continue to exist. The fact of the privy drain containing a deposit of decomposed excreta by reason of no water supply sufficient to carry off the solid matter and to aid in oxidation, and there being no means of ventilation to the