

meeting affords, to make application for membership at their earliest convenience. It ought to be understood that only invited guests and members are admitted to the discussions and privileges. Other information may be obtained by writing Dr. H. T. Machell, 95 Bellevue Avenue, the acting Secretary of the Toronto Branch.

Correspondence.

The Editors are not responsible for any views expressed by correspondents.

Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—MONTREAL MEETING.

To the Editor:

SIR,—May I ask you, through the columns of your journal, to draw the attention of the profession in Canada to the fact, that all those who intend attending the meeting of the British Medical Association here on the 31st of August next, must be members of the Association. And moreover, it is compulsory in all meetings, excursions or entertainments of any kind, that members must show their ticket of membership to entitle them to any of the foregoing privileges. The half year of subscription to membership began on July 1st, from which date also the second volume of the JOURNAL for the current year is issued. It is particularly advisable that all those who intend to join, should do so now, and not wait until the time of the meeting, when in all probability their election to membership would be delayed and place an extra amount of work upon the officials, who at that time will probably have more than they can comfortably accomplish.

Yours faithfully,

J. ANDERSON SPRINGLE,
Hon. Sec'y. Montreal Branch.

July 16th, 1897.

Miscellany.

A RESPIRATORY SYMPTOM OF TOBACCO POISONING.—Dr. William S. Morrow, in the *British Medical Journal* for June 5th, describes a certain peculiarity of breathing met with in cases of tobacco poisoning, and gives an account of its experimental investigation. In his experience it has been a very common symptom of the excessive use of tobacco, and he cites a number of cases in which he has seen it to a marked degree. The only satisfactory description of this symptom, says the author, is that given by Chapman, of Louisville, who described the breathing as irregular, consisting of several short, shallow respirations, followed by one deep and gasping. He counted the respirations, and found them from twenty to twenty-two a minute. Such a change in the breathing, he thinks, is due to some influence affecting either the respiratory centre, the pneumogastric nerve, or the blood, and in order to determine the matter for himself, the author decided to carry out a few experiments, the details of which are given in full, and the results of which are as follows: In experimental poisoning, as in the clinical cases reported, the respiratory phase of respiration becomes more pronounced and expiration less. Tobacco does not produce this characteristic effect through the peripheral endings of the pneumogastric nerves, as its action is practically the same after those nerves have been cut. The same experiment makes it unlikely that it acts through the trunks of these nerves. Moreover, they seem capable of conducting nerve impulses after death from tobacco, and it would be difficult to explain the diminution which seems to occur in the total volume of air breathed by any action on these nerves. Dr. Morrow states that he does not deny that the pulmonary branches of the pneumogastrics may be affected in any way. On the con-