

AN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

We have advocated, on former occasions, the formation of an Academy of Medicine for Toronto. The time is ripe for such. The various medical societies of the city could perform the present work as sections of the academy. The fee could be placed at such an amount as to enable the academy to publish its transactions in an annual volume. This would have a wholesome and stimulating effect. Many who do not now take any interest in our societies would, if there were such an academy as would result from a union of the several societies. The publication of the proceedings of the sections would give to the work of the academy a stable character, and make the members feel that there was something valuable and permanent in their work. We would suggest that the present societies take the matter up and appoint persons to meet and report a plan of action. J. F.

THE VALUE OF VACCINATION.

At a time like this, when smallpox exists in a number of places throughout the Province, it may not be amiss to review the position of the medical profession on the protective value of vaccination. This is especially important, as there are always a considerable number of the laity who do not believe in vaccination; and a small, but active, minority who are constantly agitating against it. There are in the medical profession a few who doubt its utility, on what grounds, however, it would be difficult to understand.

Such an eminent scientist as Alfred Russell Wallace strenuously opposes vaccination. His main grounds are that it is an interference with the liberty of the citizen. But the imprisonment of a criminal or the isolation of a smallpox patient is an interference with liberty, but for the general good. Another argument of Wallace's is that we have no right to introduce a disease into a person's system in order to prevent one that he may never have. But a moment's reflection will show how short-sighted this objection is. There can be no valid objection