

here to-day as a proof of the possibility of curing even a very large rupture by operation, and of curing it permanently so as to relieve the patient of the trouble and expense of wearing a truss even under the pressure of very hard work.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF
MEDICAL SCIENCE, NEWS, AND POLITICS

KINGSTON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1873.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications and reports solicited. Correspondents must accompany letters, if intended to be printed anonymously, with their proper signature, as a guarantee of good faith.

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.

THE MEDICAL TIMES is supplied six months for ONE DOLLAR. Address orders and remittances to JAMES NEISH, M.D., Kingston.

POSTAGE ON THE MEDICAL TIMES.—The rate of postage on the Medical Times is Five Cents per quarter.

We wish to urge upon Canadian practitioners the propriety of immediately taking steps for the formation of medical societies wherever such associations do not already exist. Prospectively the time is coming when such associations will have a legal status in Ontario, and so become a power in the land. Independently of this, however, the accomplishment of the objects likely to be furthered by the formation of such societies is most desirable. The cementation of professional interests, the promotion of fellowship, unity, and harmony are in themselves worthy of every effort.

It is altogether unusual for medical journals to be occupied in exposing political scandals; but there seems to be abundant justification for such a course in the case of those Members of Congress who have done their part to defeat the intention of the American Government in its liberal appropriation of money towards printing and giving away the "Medical and Surgical History of the War." The copies of this splendidly got-up production have cost the Government on a large edition no less than \$125 a-piece; and independently of its dress and expensiveness it is a work of rich scientific value. It was intended, of course, to distribute the work among the libraries and public institutions throughout the country, and also to disseminate it among members of the profession. Unfortunately for this intention, however, the House of Representatives resolved that the five thousand copies intended for such distribution should be placed in the hands of Members of Congress for the purpose; and it has happened with this as with some other valuable public documents that, instead of being faithfully distributed, very many copies have passed into the hands of book brokers in Washington and have been offered for sale for the benefit of venal Congressmen. This is a practice which respectable Americans wish to see suppressed; and we cannot help thinking that it will help the suppression to have the medical profession strongly enlisted on the side by this flagrant instance, so hurtful in its effects upon the interest of our profession, as well as being a public offence against morals and good government.

DR. GRANT ON CANADIAN MEDICAL LITERATURE.

The following passage occurs in Dr. Grant's address before the Canadian Medical Association:—

In Canada we are yearly enlarging and increasing our medical periodicals, which give evidence of improvement by the abundance, variety and general excellence of the various contributions and selections. How is our Canadian Medical literature to be supported? This is a question which must strike forcibly the most ordinary observer. In the larger cities as well as the rural districts there are those who, from their position, experience and knowledge of matters medical, could do much towards building up in this country such an expression of opinion as would tend materially to strengthen and consolidate the very best interests of our profession. It is generally acknowledged that there are more medical journals than receive remunerative support, and that much labour, zeal and self-sacrifice are necessary on the part of both editors and publishers in order to promote the vitality of this form of medical literature. Such efforts are worthy of the highest commendation, for by means of local medical journals many facts are brought to light which otherwise must have passed unrecorded. In Canada, as in Great Britain, hospital reports are yearly acquiring a greater degree of importance, and our medical students are being stimulated thus towards the cultivation of one of the most necessary branches of study, viz., to observe rightly and report intelligently. The country as well as the city practitioner should contribute regularly to our journals. The city, with its extensive hospitals, large libraries, well organized medical societies, has very great advantages; and yet it has been remarked by an able writer in favour of the country medical man, that "*original thought is usually best cultivated in comparative solitude.*" A high degree of excellence in medical journalism can scarcely be expected in so new a field of enquiry; and considering the efforts put forth to fan into vitality such able journals as the *London Lancet* and *London Medical Times and Gazette*, *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, and others of like celebrity, we should not be discouraged. In the recording of medical facts, it is prudent and right that such should be communicated plainly, avoiding, as far as possible, newly-coined words and abstruse phraseology, which in no way whatever will be acceptable to the plain, common sense practitioner. It is common sense which is most required at the sick bedside; it is this sense after all which achieves the greatest degree of success, educated, enlightened, and elaborated through the various scientific achievements and astounding discoveries of this age of progress. Every physician in regular practice in city and country, should not only take one or more medical journals, but contribute as well. A large and lucrative practice, a high and influential position, are not alone sufficient to perpetuate a worthy name and reputation. These are perishable, and will die out, when well-timed and well-recorded facts will last, and establish true and genuine worth. Zimmerman remarked "*that the greatest medical writers of any age were the best physicians.*" Those who com-

municate their views should rather be encouraged than decried. It is quite unnecessary to urge upon those who read the best medical journals, the importance of such publications. It is high time that those who fancy they can learn nothing from medical journals, should retire and leave the field to those more willing in every respect to keep pace with the progress of medical science in its various departments. Let us then as an Association encourage and uphold our journals, and contribute in every possible way towards building up and sustaining so worthy and so requisite a branch of literature.

TORONTO EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

(From a Correspondent in Toronto.)

Among the charities of our city the above institution occupies a prominent position, and proves a credit to the town and a blessing to the poor of the entire province.

The Infirmary is situate at 21 Adelaide street West. It was established in May, 1867, and for the six years ending May, 1873, there were 1372 poor persons from different parts of the Province, who received gratuitous medical treatment for diseases of the eye and ear. The number of patients in attendance gradually increased from 104 the first year to 367 the sixth year. Many poor patients were quite blind, and if medical skill had not been charitably extended to them, would now be hopelessly blind. In some cases, where the father of a family had been so afflicted, the whole family would have been reduced to helpless pauperism, and made dependent upon public or private charity for their maintenance, but for the relief afforded at this institution.

The Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary affords relief to the poor of every part of the Province of Ontario. It also affords valuable clinical advantages in ophthalmic and aural surgery to medical students, which cannot be obtained in any other institution in the province. These students, as they settle in different parts of the country, carry the experience which they have gained at the Eye and Ear Infirmary into practice, and thereby confer a public benefit. As already stated above, there is no charge for medical treatment or medicines, the only expense being the in-patient's board, which is charged at \$3 per week each person.

These in-patients enjoy much more liberty than at our other similar institutions; but the use of spirituous and other intoxicating liquors, and smoking, are strictly prohibited in the Infirmary, and a violation of this rule will tender the offender liable to be dismissed.

The Board of Management perform their labours without any remuneration whatsoever. They are God-fearing and pious men, not minding inconvenience and trouble in the service of their suffering fellow-creatures. The City Chamberlain, Mr. A. T. McCord, is the President; Mr. A. Dredge, Vice-President; Mr. W. T. Mason, Secretary-Treasurer; and Messrs. Wm. Elliott, George Hague (Bank of Toronto), John McBain, W. J. McDonnell, A. R. McMaster, J. H. Mason, E. J. Palmer, Robert Walker, and Robert Wilke, M.P., are Directors.