

this standpoint may be, and generally is adopted by the expert in all honesty. Why should not both sides be compelled to retain the same man or men? In such a case the medical expert would be swayed no more in one direction than the other, and he would be compelled to give an unbiased opinion. Some of the difficulties involved by such a measure are very apparent, but the fact that it has been done is strongly in its favour. Each side would have the privilege of refusing to share the services of any particular expert, but in every community there are men upon whom both sides could agree, provided that both sides wanted an honest opinion. If expert after expert were challenged by one side or the other, the power might well be vested in the court to compel both sides to agree upon some one. If this were not practicable, some cases would no doubt be compelled to do without medical expert evidence; and cases are known to us where, we think, the ends of justice would be all the better served.

In this connexion, we are glad to see that the Medical Society of the State of New York, appointed a committee to confer with another committee, similarly appointed by the Bar Association of New York, upon the subject of regulating medical expert testimony. Their recommendation provided that in civil cases, a list of qualified men should be drawn up, from whose number the court might appoint one or more to examine a case and report their opinion in writing. They recommended, also, the fee which should be paid for such services. Their opinion was, further, in favour of permitting the litigants to call whom they wished, as further evidence, at their own expense, but we venture to think that the jury would be likely to find useful the evidence of officially appointed experts. It is to be hoped that such measures as this will lead to a better state of affairs, one more in keeping with the dignity of the medical profession.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION.

An association without some means of recording its transactions and expressing its convictions is largely ineffectual. The Canadian Medical Association is in such situation, but that need not last forever. At the Montreal meeting last year a committee was appointed to consider the whole matter and make report upon the feasibility of establishing a journal. The members of this committee are resident in various parts of Canada, from St. John to Vancouver, yet the chairman was able to discuss the matter personally with all the members but one. Several of the members who were quite willing to give an assent to the general proposal were not insensible to the difficulties which lie