

work, and there is already indisputable evidence that the present phase of professional life finds itself somewhat ill at ease with many of the ideas and customs of the old *régime*. It is for such a gathering as this to bind together all the diversifying elements and combine in our programme all the phases of professional work. We come together once a year to see each other, to hear each other, and to know each other in our different lines of work, and to become familiar with that personal tone and character which can only be done by personal contact. The Ontario Medical Association, established, as it was, fourteen years ago, for the cultivation of the science of medicine and surgery, the advancement of the character and honor of the medical profession, and the promotion of unity and harmony among its members, has enjoyed a most successful career, and the gathering to-day may be taken as a pleasing augury for increasing prosperity. It has outgrown its infancy, and entered upon adolescence with bright expectations of vigorous maturity.

The temple of medicine is constructed with slow and calm deliberation, and many stones laid in the first flush of a fancied new discovery have had to be rejected when thoroughly tested by subsequent clinical experience. Time and experience are alone able to demonstrate the soundness or frailty of our workmanship. What is characteristic of these modern days, so far as medicine is concerned, is the high place we assign to the study of the origin of disease. Of one thing we may be sure, and that is that we are learning that it is better to avoid the causes of disease than to remove their effects, and that good hygiene is preferable to therapeutics. We must be chary, however, of going to an extreme likely to encourage skepticism. The antidotal treatment of fevers now receives more attention than is paid to the so-called antipyretic nostrums, many of which, on account of their heart-depressing effects, have been relegated to obscurity. During the past year the question of serum-therapy has become of such transcendent importance that some predict we are now on the threshold of one of the most beneficent discoveries since Jenner's immortal victory. From the introduction of the germ theory, associated with the names of Lister, Tyndall, and Pasteur, names familiar wherever the rays of modern civilization have penetrated, has come the science of bacteriology. From this study of microbic pathology modern medicine is evolving what at present promises to be one of her supreme triumphs. Never in the history of medicine was there such hopefulness that, in the light now breaking, there may be seen the sure and certain pathway by which immunity from the so-called zymotic diseases may be achieved. If serum-therapy demonstrates its usefulness in this way, it will justly be regarded as one of the most brilliant triumphs of the genius of man. True, we cannot always be certain whether the light on the horizon is the sign of dawn, or merely a "Will-o'-the-wisp" to lead us into realms of still greater