

interesting to note that this first meeting was among the largest ones held by this Association—109 being present. At the second meeting, held in this city, there were 135, after that for several years the attendance never reached 100. Even of late years, compared with this first meeting, the Association has not shown the advance either in attendance or work that its founders were entitled to anticipate. However, history has but repeated itself, the higher life, intellectual and scientific, of young countries as of individuals, is always the latest to develop. It is quite possible that to the clear vision of the Fathers of the Association it was evident that its growth would be slow and subject to many vicissitudes, that it would only be after many years of painful struggling that much advance could be hoped for. They doubtless foresaw such advance could come only after the growth of culture, that is, after the conditions of the people became stable and sufficient wealth accumulated at least to give ease, if not luxury to many. For various reasons such a state has been slow in maturing in this country, but it may be said to have now come, at least in the older provinces. Such has been the history of the United States, where only recently science and art have made material advance, and even yet "it is the day of small things" with them in comparison with the development of the natural resources and growth of wealth of that country. Our history will doubtless be similar to theirs, although the indications are that our material growth will be even more rapid in proportion to the population. It is said that, although our population is only six millions, our immigration equals now that of the United States when her population was 40,000,000.

Such great accessions we have good reason to fear, are beyond our country's powers of assimilation.

As a national association we have to bear our part of the great responsibilities imposed upon the country by these great accessions of foreign people and the rapid growth of its material interests. It devolves upon us, as far as possible, to promote the medical and scientific interests of this country so that they may be kept abreast with its material development. This responsibility rests on the older provinces chiefly, as in those there is more leisure and culture. United action on our part will be necessary to cope successfully with these responsibilities and to enable us as a profession to attain and maintain the status in the country to which we are entitled. This country's conditions are unusual. Its geographical extent is very great, and its population as yet only occupies its southern border, extending from ocean to ocean. Community of action as well as of interest will, consequent'y, be difficult to develop and maintain. It seems therefore urgent that all available means should be taken to harmonize the interests of the various parts of the country in order the more efficiently to apply our energies for the advance of general scientific and professional interests. The closer we are in touch with one another the greater should be the stimulus to do higher works; the increased zeal and enthusiasm should yield results which will enhance our reputation as a profession, and also redound to the credit of the country. Every scientific advance, however small, is an asset to the country, both in the intrinsic value of the work itself and in the impetus it gives to further advance. It is difficult to impress laymen, even the best educated, with the