

Society Report.

NINTH CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION.

The ninth Conference of the American Hospital Association was held in the Palmer House, Chicago, September 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th. There was a very large attendance—the largest in the history of the Association. Canada was represented by a larger number of new members than any State of the Union, and its delegates secured the next meeting for Toronto, which will be held on the 26th of September, 1908.

The celebrated Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago, delivered an address on "The Layman's View of Hospital Work Among the Poor," during which address she expressed some pretty severe criticism on some hospital workers. What she criticized most strongly was what she called "hospitalization of nurses, doctors and employees," by which she meant the performance of work with other ideas uppermost in mind than the welfare of the patients. She found considerable fault with the attention that was paid to details in regard to the appearance of wards and appearance of nurses, when the patients' wants were often neglected. Convalescent patients, too, were too often sent out before they were ready to go.

The Rev. A. S. Kavanagh, D.D., of the Methodist Episcopal Hospital, Brooklyn, read a paper on "Hospital Support, and How to Secure It." Dr. Kavanagh has succeeded in raising a tremendous amount of money for his hospital, and the secret of it has been a systematic appeal to not only the rich but the poorer classes as well. He has paid great attention to the five and one dollar subscriptions. Another means he took to enlarge the hospital income was to increase the number of attending physicians and surgeons, thus bringing more patronage to his private wards. Another point which he emphasized, which meant money to his institution, was that patients should be treated with kindness, courtesy and skill.

Dr. J. N. E. Brown, of the Toronto General Hospital, read a paper on "The Work of an Immunizing and Inoculating Department," in which he gave a history of such a department in the Toronto General Hospital. He described the technique of procuring the vaccines and of obtaining the opsonic index.