

The by law for the coming elections and the appointment of returning officers will be a necessary item: also, the report of the Discipline Committee dealing with the cases of Drs. McCullough, McBrien and Wilson. The precedent of the action in the case of Dr. McCully may be followed out, as the result has been excellent.

The renewal of the contract with the ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL will be a topic of some interest, and without boasting we certainly think we have carried out our part to the full letter of the law. When we say we have supplied a good medical paper, giving free room to all the medical profession in reasonable bounds for the airing of their opinions, we are not giving our own thoughts but the result of the general expression of our readers.

Some men, rather finicky, or in fits of spleen, have objected to the style of advertising. If we needed any defence we could easily give a very good one. Without entering into the matter we might say that the *British Medical Journal*, which is considered the criterion in ethics, gives exactly the same class as we ourselves do in our advertising pages. As a matter of fact we have been just a little too particular for our own good in that line, as many times we have refused ads. which would pay well, but the matter did not please us.

The general work will be on the same lines as heretofore, and we look to find able expositions, of the different courses adopted.

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

The generous offer of Mr. W. J. Gage, the publisher, of Toronto, wherein he donated \$25,000 towards the founding of a hospital for consumptives, in High Park, the only stipulation being that the city grant a site and erect a building to cost not less than \$50,000, cannot be too highly commended. It is an offer that the city should immediately accept, the infectiousness of phthisis being so firmly established.

The diffusion of tuberculous dust is proven to be the principal means by which the disease is carried from man to man, and the necessity for isolation of advanced cases, and the education of the people of the necessity for the conscientious and persistent use of disinfected spitting cups, and of

various easily burned substitutes for handkerchiefs, are facts that should convince the city council of the urgent necessity for such an hospital. We cannot too strongly emphasize the prominence of the bacillus and the importance of dealing with the sputa and preventing diffusion of tuberculous dust. It is right to isolate, so far as possible, the hopeless consumptive, and to enforce such measures of cleanliness as should prevent those going about from infecting their neighbors.

Consumption is a disease of degenerate tissue in a degenerate race, the degeneration being entirely due to the entrance of a micro-organism with which the germicidal action of the blood is unable to cope. So that with proper isolation, improved sanitation, and thorough disinfection, the next century will recognize phthisis as a disease of the past.

SCIENCE OF BACTERIOLOGY.

Since the discovery by Koch, in 1882, of the bacillus tuberculosis, the study of bacteriology has rapidly become one of the most important, not only in the scientific, but also in the medical world. It has come to be looked upon as playing a most prominent part, both in the production of disease and in putrefaction, and in the everyday processes of fermentation and some chemical changes which hitherto were supposed to depend on very different causes. In consequence of this, study has been raised to the dignity of a science, and its ramifications have become so numerous and widespread, that many of the other ologies and even some of the arts have been freely brought into the service of one or the other of its branches.

The study of bacteria remained for many years in the hands of botanists, with the occasional intervention of scientific medical men, who made guesses at the casual relationship between certain bacteria and some infectious diseases.

In the last ten years, however, owing to the vast improvements that have been made in the methods of cultivations, and especially in the method of obtaining pure cultures, most valuable information, as to the functions and biological chemistry of these minute specks of vegetable protoplasm, has been rapidly accumulated.