

two year's (1890 and 1891) allowance of Secretary, (\$200) amounted to \$443.02. The statement to 31st December, 1892, is as follows:

RECEIPTS	
Balance Cash on hand.....	\$ 60 07
Membership and Entrance Fees.....	474 00
	<hr/> \$534 07
EXPENDITURE	
Postage and Telegrams.....	\$ 46 51
Printing and Stationery.....	71 52
Express and Sundries.....	18 16
Returned to Members and Applicants.....	22 00
Expenses A. Pattullo to Montreal.....	8 50
Expenses Executive Committee.....	63 08
Deficit on Dinner Account, 1892.....	13 25
Secretary's Salary, (two years, 1890-91)	200 00
	<hr/> \$443 02

If this amount be subtracted from \$534.07 it leaves a balance of \$91.05, although if the Secretary's allowance for 1891 were paid it would leave a deficit of \$9. This is a good showing when it is taken into consideration that at the beginning of the year, while there was an apparent balance on hand, there was a real deficit of \$140.

The ordinary revenue for this year may be estimated at \$475, and if the expenditures are no greater than in 1892, there will be a tidy surplus at the end of the year. The account for printing the annual report for this year is not included in this statement, as it has not yet been received. But with regard to that account it may be said there will be receipts from advertisements in the report which will amount to \$68.10.

Before closing my report I desire to express my sense of obligation to the President for his assistance and kindness during the year; also my indebtedness to the ex-Secretary, Mr. J. B. McLean, by whose resignation of his office the Association has lost an indefatigable executive officer, although they still have his co-operation as a hard-working member.

J. E. ATKINSON

The President said the report showed that the Association was being run economically.

On motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Preston, the report was adopted.

PATENT MEDICINE ADVERTISING

Dr. Playter, of the *Health Journal*, Ottawa, read, by request, a paper on "Patent Medicine Advertising in Lay Press." In his opening remarks he referred to the qualification of the regular medical practitioner to grapple with the ills to which human flesh is heir, and then entered upon a criticism of patent medicines. In concluding, he said:

"After having thus sketched out as briefly as I could the line of treatment of disease which the science of medicine in its now advanced state demands, it may be well to ask, is it meet, is it in accordance with justice, with righteousness, that the general, or as it is sometimes termed, 'lay' press, should, with its mighty influence, lend itself, or rather sell itself, to a line of treatment by medicament or dosing, alone, to sustain a practice by which millions of the less intelligent, less educated classes, who fall, as a rule, the most ready victims to disease, and who too largely look to the press for guidance, to be treated for their many ills in an improper, unscientific manner, which costing these classes millions of dollars, must be, notwithstanding the few cures we read about, both directly and indirectly, destructive of human life? The responsibility of the press in the matter cannot be evaded. Hardly any paper in Canada would advertise an article which had been proven to be fraudulent. If the present indiscriminate use of so-called 'patent medicines' be not fraudulent, what is the use of the whole science of medicine? If not fraudulent, the now well-known advanced condition of this noble science, although yet, like other sciences, far from perfect, falls to the ground.

I will not detain you by alluding to such advertisements as the big 'G,' the 'Cotton Root Pills,' or to the four pictures we so often see of the supposed once miserable wretch made apparently healthy, vigorous and young by some vile compound. Money would not induce the medical press to publish any such advertisements. Why? And why should the general press? Can any one give a good reason? Why should not the general press be as free from all such as the medical press? I tell you candidly gentlemen, if I possessed the power to do one single act which would, more than any other act, promote the public health, I should, if not first of all, certainly next after everybody were made clean within and without, sweep from the face of the earth all so-called patent medicines,—all preparatory medicines used by the people without the advice of a competent physician, for it is probable that the common practice of taking the many cure-alls—pills, bitters, compounds and mixtures of all sorts and conditions—so universally, attractively and suggestively advertised in the numerous local papers, to cure sundry and all diseases, is responsible, directly and indirectly, for more disease than any one cause.

Mr. Pirie said that he did not agree with Dr. Playter in so far as he said that local papers should reject the advertisements of patent medicines, and added jocularly: "Now don't you think, 'doctor, that the medical profession is somewhat itself to blame because there is so much patent medicine in use? Is it not partly because you doctors have often failed