

ing of professional equality with his brethren in other parts of the Empire. This is assuredly a laudable and most desirable object, and one which, in my humble opinion, should call forth the best efforts of each one of us to bring about its accomplishment ; and I sincerely trust that some concerted action will be taken in this matter before the meeting closes.

It is the least, I think, we can do to show our appreciation of the strenuous efforts exerted in securing the passage of so important a measure.

This brings me to my fourth and last point, "The Treatment of Inebriates." A conviction has been steadily growing in the minds of most medical men of late years that something should be done for the care and control of dipsomaniacs and inebriates in the form of founding establishments combining the main features of a hospital and an insane asylum, where drunkards could be legally confined under medical authority and treated in a systematic and enlightened manner. The practice, hitherto, of treating them as criminals subject to a fine or short periods of confinement in the common prisons of the country, has been shown to be wholly unsatisfactory and often productive of the greatest evil to themselves and those who may be dependent upon them.

There can be no doubt, I think, that the care and treatment of those unfortunate members of society is a question of the gravest and most vital importance, and should command the interest and attention of medical men as a subject, which, coming well within their province, affects so seriously the general commonwealth.

A movement towards this end has already been taken in Ontario, and a Bill drafted, the principles of which have received the endorsement of the Toronto Medical Society, and also of our own Association ; but what we want is a Dominion Act affecting the whole country ; and it would be the source of the greatest satisfaction to me if this meeting would take this question up seriously and nominate a committee to draft a measure that could be submitted to the Federal authorities. This could be done either on the lines of the Ontario Bill or any others that might commend themselves.

Speaking, personally, I may say that I shall be only too glad to help in drafting such a measure and giving any other assistance in my power, for I am convinced that the adoption and carrying out of the provisions of a bill of this kind will do much to diminish the volume of sickness, pauperism, vice and crime that now stains the annals of our country and restore to lives of usefulness and self-respect many of those poor unfortunates whom it is the design of such a measure to control and help.