

THE CANADA LANCET.

**A Monthly Journal of Medical and Surgical Science
Criticism and News.**

Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.

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TORONTO, AUGUST, 1885.

The LANCET has the largest circulation of any Medical Journal in Canada, comprising four-fifths of the entire Medical Profession.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

Our readers are already aware that it is intended to hold the International Medical Congress in Washington in 1877. A committee of arrangements consisting of seven members, with power to add to its numbers, was appointed at the meeting of the American Medical Association in 1884, to extend an invitation to the Congress to meet at Washington, and in case of an acceptance, to make all necessary arrangements for the meeting and to solicit funds for that purpose. This committee was composed of Drs. Austin Flint, Sr., and L. A. Sayre, New York; I. Minis Hays, Philadelphia; C. Johnson, Baltimore; H. F. Campbell, Georgia, and J. S. Billings and J. M. Browne, of the U. S. army and navy respectively. The invitation was accepted, and to this committee about twenty additional members were added, among others, some "new code" men of note, and a meeting was held in Washington and a plan of organization adopted. The list of officers, and numbers of sections (nineteen in all) were published in the medical journals of the United States and foreign countries, and met with general approval. Everything went smoothly as a marriage bell until the meeting of the American Medical Association in New Orleans in May last, when a few turbulent spirits of the "rule or ruin" type, to be found in all assemblies, took exception to the action of the committee on the ground, first,

that it had recognized "new code" men; and, secondly, that the south and west were not fairly represented in the Congress, the majority of the officers having been chosen from among the eminent names in the East—New York, Boston and Philadelphia. "New code" prejudices and local jealousies were too much for the serenity of the Association, and the upshot was the appointment of a mammoth committee of 38 members, representing every State and Territory in the Union, Army, Navy, etc., to be added to the original committee, with power to alter or amend the action of the former committee, as it might deem best. This committee met in Chicago on the 24th of June, and, as might have been expected, there was a lively time. Only two members of the original committee put in an appearance, viz., Drs. J. S. Billings and I. Minis Hays, while twenty-four of the new members were present. Dr. Cole, of California, was appointed chairman, and Dr. Shoemaker (one of the leaders in the crusade against the original committee) was appointed secretary. The committee then proceeded to the work of revision. They first deposed Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, from the vice-presidency of the Congress, because of alleged "new code" sympathies. The following chairmen of sections ("new coders") were also deposed, viz., Dr. Noyes, on Ophthalmology, Dr. Lefferts, on Laryngology, and Dr. Jacobi, on Diseases of Children. The nineteen sections were reduced to sixteen, and the membership of the Congress was confined to delegates from the American Medical Association and societies in affiliation with it, thus excluding all from the Congress who are not in full sympathy with the American Association, and carrying the "code" quarrel into the Congress. When the result of the committee's deliberations became known, meetings of those interested were held in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and resolutions were passed expressive of disapproval of the action of the committee, and refusing to have anything to do with the Congress under the present regime.

This action on the part of the leading members of the profession seems a most serious step, but it arises from the fact that there is a growing want of confidence in the ability of the American Medical Association, as an organization, to carry out such an undertaking satisfactorily, and also in the pro-