

Professor HOWARD, of McGill University; and one on Obstetrics, by Dr. HOLDEN, of Toronto, and one on Hygiene by Dr. BOTSFORD, of St. John. In addition, a Gold Medal is offered for the best Essay on Zymotic diseases. We anticipate a lively discussion on many points of interest, which will doubtless arise out of those papers. We look forward to a greater degree of activity in future in the Association, as general medical topics will occupy the deliberations of all interested in work, such as must tend to advance the best interests of our profession in this country.

The subject of medical education is a topic which at every meeting of this Association, has received well-merited consideration. Although somewhat worn, it is of such vital importance that it cannot be too frequently discussed, more especially when we observe the present manifest disposition of the rising generation to rush through a course of collegiate study, and enter into the practice of the medical profession, devoid of that literary training, so requisite in order to develop those powers of thought and observation so necessary, particularly when matters of life and death are concerned.

"A profession that does not equal the age of its educational machinery, that is unable or unwilling to represent its modes of thought and its forward tendencies in its demands from those who seek admission into its ranks, ceases to be a profession; because it loses its claims to a scientific character."

Great changes are yearly taking place in the progress of human thought and human industry, and in each department of science, only those methods are recognized, which rest on an educational basis. A defective preliminary education, is the first and undoubtedly the great error in the present system of medical education. There should be one standard of preliminary education exacted in all the Provinces, from those who desire to enter the medical profession. A greater degree of uniformity now exists, than prior to our discussions on this subject. So long as there is a diversity of interest in matters educational, diffculty will attend the bringing about of that uniformity which would be arrived at by a Dominion Medical Act. Important changes are usually slow in their development, yet we look forward to the time when we shall have one chief educational centre, so guiding and directing the medical profession of this entire Dominion, as to build up an enlightened opinion, such as the members of this Association have at heart. While recognizing the progress of medical education in each Province, and the marked ability of those active in imparting a sound medical training, we

must await the spontaneous action of all, alike interested, to extend the principles of confederation we now enjoy, so as to unite us as a profession, strengthen our position as a body, and thus increase our sphere of usefulness.

There is a point to which I would now desire to call the attention of this Association, viz., the advisability of having thoroughly trained female nurses. In private as well as hospital practice we constantly experience a great want in this respect. In each of the large cities having extensive hospital accommodation, some system might be inaugurated by which those desirous of becoming skilled nurses might avail themselves of the facilities offered, and in course of time, supply a deficiency now generally felt in the practice of the profession. Such skilled nurses to obtain certificates of qualification and fitness for the position of honour and trust. Every town and city in the Dominion would gladly encourage the employment of such talent, and in that sphere woman would occupy her true position, as the administerer of the prescribed medicines, capable as she is of those soothing, delicate and kindly attentions so necessary at the sick bedside, and so cheering and gratifying to the patient. Miss NIGHTINGALE has thus fully expressed her ideas:

"I think the Anglo-Saxon would be very sorry to turn woman out of his own house, or out of civil hospitals, hotels, institutions of all kinds, and substitute men-housekeepers and men-matrons. The contrast between even naval hospitals, where there are female nurses, and military hospitals, where there are none, is most striking in point of order and cleanliness."

In points of sanitary domestic economy, woman carries off the palm, and, by her tidiness and cleanliness, establishes a degree of order seldom seen without her. The cheering look, the tender hand, the watchful eye, and the innate powers of observation, are such, that many little necessaries for the sick patient are carefully thought of, that might escape the sterner powers of the skilled and educated physician.

The Sisters of Charity, who officiate as nurses in the Catholic hospitals of the Dominion, have, by their skill, dexterity and general neatness, earned a well-deserved reputation. Why should not the Protestant Institutions of Canada have a sisterhood alike charitable and philanthropic?

The subject of medical evidence in courts of law is one possessing no ordinary degree of interest. The value of such evidence in questions involving the causes of death, by unknown means has been long