

future of the Association; but we cannot, however, always hope to have present at our meetings such men as favored us on that occasion, and we must be prepared to depend more upon our own efforts than on assistance from outside to make the British Columbia Medical Association a thriving and progressive one.

We are separated by long distances from the great centres of medical and scientific research, our membership is small, and our financial resources limited, so that it is at all times a difficult matter to enlist the sympathy of some great mind to come to our assistance and aid us by words of counsel and wisdom. It is, therefore, necessary, gentlemen, that every member of the profession in British Columbia should become a member of our Association, even although he may not be able to attend our meetings, and thus in a practical form give it his support and endorsement.

Ever since the practice of medicine and surgery has been established upon a scientific basis, the union of those practising our art has been found necessary and beneficial, and we find to-day in every country a national medical society, in every province or state a provincial or state society, and in every town or city local societies, where the members of our profession meet together for the discussion of subjects of common interest and for the mutual interchange of ideas. In fact, so much is this the case that a country's or city's importance as a medical centre can almost be measured by the numerical strength of its medical societies.

After mentally reviewing the various subjects upon which to address you to-day, I have thought it expedient to leave the scientific part of the meeting to the gentlemen who have so kindly prepared papers to be read before you at this meeting, and I have endeavored briefly to review the legislative enactments relative to the practice of medicine and surgery which have, from time to time, been enacted in this Province for the governance of our profession and the protection of the public from the impositions of quacks and charlatans.

On looking over the various ordinances and acts of the Local Legislature, I find that in all eleven acts respecting the practice of medicine and surgery have been passed between 1867, when the first ordinance was enacted, and the present date. Of these three stand out prominently as marking distinct steps in the medical history of the Province. They are the ordinance of 1867, the Act of 1886, and the Act of 1898, the other acts being merely in the nature of amendments or additions to the existing law.

The first Act to be passed in British Columbia respecting the practice of medicine is entitled, "An Ordinance Respecting Practitioners in Medicine and Surgery." It is dated as having passed the Legislative Council on April 1st, 1867, and assented to in Her