

best means of gradual improvement in medical education that can be inaugurated in the medical colleges of this country will be found in the associated action of such colleges as will unite for that purpose; resolved,

First—That a committee of nine be appointed, whose duty it shall be to communicate with the faculties of all the regular medical colleges in the United States, with the view to ascertain how many and which may be willing to become members of an association of medical colleges, having for its prime object the improvement of the medical education.

Second—That the chairman of said committee be instructed, as soon as he shall have received affirmative replies from the regular colleges, to inform such faculty so consenting of the fact, and to request that each faculty elect one or more delegates to convene on the Friday before the day appointed for the meeting of the American Medical Association in 1871, and at the place of meeting chosen by that body, said delegates to be fully authorized to pledge their respective faculties to whatever definite plans of improvement in medical education may be adopted by that body in convention.

Third—It is hereby recommended that said delegates organize themselves, in behalf of their respective institutions, into a permanent association of medical colleges for the above-mentioned object, and with the view of co-operating with the American Medical Association and the profession at large to accomplish so desirable an end.

Fourth—That Prof. N. S. Davis, the chairman of the committee appointed by this body at its last session to communicate with the medical colleges on the same subject, be made chairman of this committee, and that the committee be authorized to fill any vacancies which may occur in its ranks.

Really I am puzzled to know whether medical men are endowed with their proper share of the common sense distributed among mankind. It is enough to make one seriously question this to learn—as we do by this morning's despatches from Washington—of the childish conduct of the Committee on Credentials of the American Medical Association, in refusing to admit certain delegates because they had associated with colored physicians! No wonder much indignation is created. No wonder the friends of the profession feel a little ashamed. It is a bad beginning for the twenty-first annual meeting of the American Medical Association.

I subjoin a few of the names of subjects which will be discussed at the meeting: "The relative Advantages of Symes' and Pirigoff's mode of Amputating at the Ankle;" "The Cryptogamic Origin of Disease;" "A National Medical School;" "Commissioners to aid in Trials requiring Scientific Testimony;" "Medical Ethics." These are but a few of the subjects. All possess a living interest.

They will, doubtless, be well handled by the various committees to which they have been severally assigned.

J. J.

[Owing to pressing demands upon our space, we have been obliged to materially shorten our correspondent's letter.—Ed. D. M. J.]

OUR HAMILTON CORRESPONDENT.

To the Editors of the Dominion Medical Journal:

In my last letter I alluded to a dispute between some of the professional gentlemen of this city arising out of the permission given to certain Homoeopaths and Eclectics to vote at the annual election of physicians to the city hospital. * * *

It is one of the practical results of that extraordinary union of the different sections of the profession, forced upon us by the Legislature of Ontario. Repugnant as this situation may be to us, we are bound, as good citizens to accept it, and, yielding to the philosophy of the age, make the most of it. It has often happened in the history of the world that what men and nations at first regarded as an unmitigated calamity, has in the end proved to have been a great blessing. May it not be so with us! If the profession of twenty years hence is raised to that position in public esteem which its importance entitles it to, has nothing been gained? At present it is the individual who dignifies and elevates his profession. May we not see the day when the profession shall shed a lustre upon the individual! Assuredly if that time comes, we shall have occasion to rejoice and shall feel amply rewarded for the indignity, if we so regard it, of our present position.

The March meeting of the Hamilton Medical and Surgical Society was one of interest. The treatment of Acute Rheumatism being the subject of consideration. Dr. J. Mackelcan, read a short paper, detailing several cases. The Dr. recommends blood-letting, not as a curative measure, but because he has found it difficult to obtain the ordinary effects of remedies during the existence of arterial excitement. In such cases he advises one blood-letting to relieve the arterial tension, he then gives Vin. Sem. Colchici (never more than M. xv) combined with some alkali, every few hours until the acute symptoms subside, when he substitutes a mixture containing Iodide of Potassium. During the acute stage he used blisters in the neighborhood of affected joints to relieve the pain, and found them to succeed almost invariably. He believed the blisters also had the effect of preventing "metastasis to the heart." He never used opium if it could be avoided. The result of this plan of treat-