

second difficulty ; and if requests for autopsies were made in all cases necessary to verify a diagnosis or to elucidate an obscurity, the prejudice now existing against them in the public mind would, to a great degree, disappear. Let rural practitioners who underrate their opportunities of contributing to the general fund of medical knowledge, remember that Jenner, McDowell, and Koch were not metropolitan physicians, and were unknown to fame until their great discoveries, wrought out by diligent study and observation, placed them among the great benefactors of mankind. Observation and reflection are the parents of discovery, and never fail to produce their offspring, although the gestation may be long and the labor hard. Every truth so revealed is like a lantern, the light of which may be turned on the dark places of our field of investigation, and new truths stand clear to our mental vision, and we walk boldly and safely on, using each new thought to illumine the obscurity that surrounds and precedes it.

The building up of a science is a slow and laborious process, and facts must be supplied by a multitude of workers. The scholar who deciphers the cuneiform inscriptions of ancient Babylon or the hieroglyphics of Egypt, and contributes to our knowledge of these nations, must be aided and preceded in his work by the archæologist who discovers, and the laborer who unearths, these imperishable records of past events. So in the building up of medical science, the humblest worker is not to be despised, for his contributions may be and often are essential ; but to be available, his thoughts and observations must be recorded, that they may be weighed and winnowed by those suited to the task. All who have read the lectures of Murchison on "Functional Diseases of the Liver," of Roberts on "The Digestive Ferments," or Osler on "Malignant Endocarditis," must be impressed by the great impetus given to practical medicine by these, and will need no arguments to convince them of the desirability of the endowment of similar lecture-ships here. From a literary and scientific standpoint, the advantages accruing to the profession from such lectures would be important, but of even more importance would be the encouragement afforded to the more gifted and aspiring of our own Canadian physicians and surgeons. As Canadians we may feel proud of our country

and of its physical and political excellencies, but we may rest assured that, so far as we medical men are concerned, others will estimate us by the reasonable and practical standard of our contributions to medical knowledge and by our scientific attainments. No conservative clinging to obsolete methods on the one hand, or the multiplication of weak meretricious literature on the other, can impose upon the learned in the professional world, and the sooner we create strong incentives to scientific work the sooner will the workers be forthcoming. I would here offer the suggestion that this Association take into consideration the establishment of lectureships similar to those in England and other older countries.

He concluded his most eloquent address in the following terms. In the not-distant future this Dominion will be the home of fifty millions of people with all the wealth and all the greatness that implies ; a thought that may well inspire us with feelings of pride and satisfaction ; but the wise man will not be so much impressed by the vastness of our territory, the multitude of our people, or the size and wealth of our cities, but will be more concerned in the problem of the social advancement, the civil liberty, the physical perfection, the scientific status and the moral rectitude of our teeming population. When that time comes may the science of medicine have contributed its share towards the creation of a people unsurpassed for physical perfection and mental sprightliness and for all those virtues that are born of these. Should these hopes be realized, then indeed would happiness prevail and prosperity sit as a ruling genius on the brow of every hill, the bosom of every lake and the bank of every stream ; and the application to our country of the language of one of England's greatest poets would scarcely be considered hyperbolic, when he says :

"All crimes shall cease and ancient fraud shall fail,
Returning Justice lift aloft her scale,
Peace o'er the world her olive wand extend,
And white-robed Innocence from heaven descend."

EFFECTUAL TREATMENT OF HYSTERIA*

BY DR. MARK CHAUMONT.

Much has been said concerning hysteria for many years. Some describe it as a physical manifestation of little consequence ; others attach great import

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