

terial, both internal and external, is fully utilized for teaching purposes. Summer sessions, some voluntary, some compulsory, have been established at nearly all the schools, and several months of the best kind of teaching is thus placed at the disposal of the student of to-day. The standard of examinations is high, as shown by the percentage of rejections, and by the excellent standing so generally attained by Canadian students both at the examinations of our local provincial boards and also abroad. Is it not certain that, with such marked advance in the facilities for sound medical education, the graduates of recent years must be correspondingly more competent and more thoroughly fitted for their important duties than those who preceded them?

In the general profession there have been many evidences of a better condition of things than formerly prevailed—of a greater interest in the scientific side of medicine, and a desire not to practise our art from a purely perfunctory or purely financial point of view. The best evidence of this is the formation of medical societies. These have sprung up on every side—provincial, county and local societies, and it is most encouraging to observe how actively and energetically many of these are maintained—good papers read, good discussions held, and a spirit of emulation evinced in correct observations, the thoughtful care of cases, and their systematic and accurate recording. The difficulties encountered in keeping up such societies are often great. Our population is still a mostly scattered one, and members have often to go long distances and sacrifice much time in order to attend; but the gain is worth it all. The best men of every town, and every country side, will always be found the keenest supporters of their own medical society. Our Canadian physicians, too, are beginning to write more than formerly—not, perhaps, even yet as much or as often as they should—but they maintain medical journals which are alive and active, and are a credit to their country and to their contributors. There are now in Canada no less than four English and two French monthly journals, all apparently prosperous. Nor are the contributions of Canadian writers confined to this country. Many of our prominent men

are frequent and valued contributors to, and correspondents of the best of, the American journals.

It may be said that, in drawing this comparison between the condition of the profession now and that when this Association began, I have presented an optimistic view, and one not altogether warranted by the facts, but I think not so. I believe that great as has been the progress of science in these years, great as has been the progress of the country in material prosperity, the medical profession may fairly claim that it has not lagged behind: that it has always had such leaders to frame its policy, and such earnest and devoted and able men in its schools as have kept it fully abreast of the busy and stirring times in which we live. Has this Association done its share in securing such a state of things? The programme it laid out for itself at the outset, as I have already shown, was very extensive: it was too extensive for any society to carry out. This was soon perceived: and from the time that the Association got away from the business of framing Bills which were never to be enacted, and discussing schemes which came to naught, and settled down to its legitimate work of fostering a scientific spirit in its members, encouraging them to produce good literary works, urging them to original observations, helping them to good understanding amongst themselves, assisting in the maintenance of a high standard of ethics, promoting sociability and good fellowship, then it succeeded; its meetings were instructive, useful in many ways, and thoroughly enjoyable. It has no feeling of rivalry toward any other society, and, I trust, none is felt by them toward it. Each has its own sphere of usefulness, and can accomplish its own good ends without detracting in any way from the necessity for a general reunion of this kind. This Province of Ontario has successfully organized an active and thoroughly admirable society, other of the Provinces have done the same; and it is only a source of regret to many of us from the old Province of Quebec that circumstances have not favored our following their excellent example.

This Association, I am convinced, has done much good, and will, I hope, continue to do much more in the years to come. For instance,