

EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN A YEAR from the early part of next month the decennial census will be taken in the Dominion. It is very desirable indeed, not only in the interests of the Canadian people but of scientific medicine in this country, that a correct record be then obtained by the enumerators of the exact number of births, marriages and deaths which had taken place during the previous year—May 1890 to May 1891. Accuracy in this regard as relating to births and deaths is almost entirely in the hands of the Medical profession of the Dominion. We therefore trust, we would indeed entreat, that every practitioner in the profession in Canada will assist in this work by keeping an accurate record of all births and deaths which shall, during that period, come *under their observation*. Blank books have been sent out by the department of Agriculture here for this purpose. If a record be kept of every such event coming *under the observation* of every medical practitioner, with name, date and locality, any duplicates can be easily found and eliminated afterward in the make up of tables and reports.

IN 1837, when the Registration Act of England first came into force, opposed as it was by the clergy and the uneducated masses, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons issued a circular pledging themselves, and asking all their members to do the same, to give in every instance that might fall under their care the authentic name of any fatal disease. In his annual report of 1887 to the Local Government Board the Registrar General refers to the immediate benefit to medical knowledge derived from this action. The medical practitioners of this country could have no better precedent or example than this to follow during the coming year in relation to this important matter. We earnestly hope every one of them will in future years be able to look back with satisfaction in having thus aided in obtaining for this one year an accurate and a full record of all births and deaths in the Dominion.

PAYMENT in money for work of this kind would in any case be quite impossible. We have been very sorry to meet with men in our most noble profession speak against doing this kind of little duty without "p. y." There are but very few such. Alas! that there should be

one. Any professional man, especially one belonging to the most benevolent of all professions, should be high above such a mercenary view of the little requirements and acts which all men should be only pleased to confer upon society for promoting the well-being of the great brotherhood of man. True, medical men being human require bread and butter, but such little acts for the public will eventually grow up and yield material fruit, and in the end "pay," if this must be an underlying aim.

INTEREST in the future progress of this great country should induce every man of even moderate intelligence to make every reasonable exertion to have a perfect record obtained of every birth in Canada for this one year. It would form a basis of great value for future estimates in regard to increase of population, &c. So with a record of deaths. It is of the utmost importance that we now obtain for one year a record of the exact number of deaths which take place during that year in all the various localities of the Dominion. It likewise would form a valuable basis for making estimates relating to future progress, not only in health proceedings but in other respects. Almost every body can aid in this work, but it rests mostly with the medical profession. Before another issue of this JOURNAL reaches its readers the record should be commenced in order that it may be given with the utmost accuracy to the census collectors or enumerators at the end of the year, the 4th of May, 1891.

THE RELATIONS of the public—individuals and communities—to the medical profession is a subject of much importance, effecting very directly, as it does, the welfare of the people, and should receive more thought and consideration than it does. From the first issue of this JOURNAL it has ever endeavored to make these relations such as would be advantageous alike to the profession and the public. A great saving in both health and money would be effected if the advice of educated physicians were more frequently sought after and followed by both families and municipalities. In each of many localities, especially in the cities, there is an organized medical society, which could give most valuable advice to the respective municipalities of which they form a part, relative to