

will stand as a series of social functions which have never been surpassed in the history of the Canadian Medical Association meetings. One of the best and most important discussions took place on the formation of a Medical Defence Union; and it is very gratifying to have to record it, that such an organisation was unanimously supported by the Association. All the leading officers of this protective Association are in Ottawa, and Dr. Russell Thomas, of Lennoxville, P.Q., along with Dr. W. S. Muir, of Truro, N.S., are deserving of much praise for the great good work they have performed in this connection. Much regret was expressed at the resignation of the General Secretary, Dr. F. N. G. Starr, of Toronto, who has so long and so faithfully, so ably and energetically, discharged the responsible and important duties of this position. At a time when the Association is so prosperous it is due to the new General Secretary and other officers that a united and earnest effort be put forth by all the members of the Association to continue that prosperity.

Selected Articles.

THE CAUSE OF DIFFUSE PERITONITIS COMPLICATING APPENDICITIS AND ITS PREVENTION.

Every surgeon who treats patients suffering from acute appendicitis must be impressed with the fact that an unfavourable outcome in any given case means that the infection, which was originally confined to the small space occupied by the vermiform appendix itself, has first invaded the tissues immediately surrounding this organ and has been distributed over the entire peritoneal cavity. In other words, in fatal cases the patient practically always dies, as the result of a diffuse peritonitis.

Other conditions may arise which may result in a fatal issue. There may be a septic thrombosis of the vessels in the vicinity of the appendix, or an empyaema, or even pyaemia, but by far the greatest number of deaths occurs from diffuse peritonitis, and if it is possible to prevent this, the mortality from appendicitis must at once fall enormously. In order to plan a means for the prevention of this condition, it is well to study the pro-