

which they live. Research of this kind can only be carried on successfully by men naturally adapted to such work, and who are free from the care and anxiety inseparable from the lives of those engaged in the active practice of their profession. Hence the absolute necessity for the endowment of institutions of this character. The large expenditure necessary to the equipment of a laboratory for such work has greatly retarded it in Canada, and until means are provided we must be content to occupy an insignificant place in the great race now being run. Can it be that this country or its wealthy citizens will remain indifferent in this matter, while our nearest neighbor is lavishing millions of dollars to attain honorable eminence in the progress of medical science? Scarcely a State in the Union that has not its well endowed university, and the princely gifts of Cornell, of Johns Hopkins, of Mr. Stanford, of Mr. Vanderbilt and of Sir Donald A. Smith are the great beginning of greater things. Who can estimate the blessings to the human race that must arise from the wise munificence of these noble men! Millions yet unborn shall speak their names with feelings of reverence and love, nor will other monuments be needed to make their names immortal. In this connection, I would suggest that a committee of this Association be appointed, to report at the next annual meeting upon the best means of establishing one or more laboratories where original investigation in medical studies may be carried on.

Medical Societies constitute a most important factor in the advancement of medical knowledge, and it is much to be regretted that they are not everywhere established. It is safe to say that the maintenance of active local societies contribute immensely to the knowledge of their members by encouraging careful observations in private practice, and more extensive reading and research. Aside from a scientific point of view, the harmony engendered by these meetings eliminates much of the jealousy and misunderstanding that are so humiliating and so subversive of individual happiness and public respect. The general organization of small local societies would be a sure means of improving the representation at the larger ones, and would secure to them papers and discussions of a higher character. Provision has been made in Ontario by the Medical Act for the formation of territorial associations in the different electoral divisions, and in some of them most prosperous societies have existed for many years, and the reports of their proceedings constitute valuable additions to medical literature.

Of all the means of medical progress, few could be more advantageously utilized than the accumu-

lated experience of men in private practice if they could be induced generally to keep a systematic record of their more important cases. Time, skill, and the privilege of post-mortem examinations are essential to the successful recording of cases, and their absence is doubtless the chief cause of the neglect so universal in this matter. Time so consumed would be more than repaid by the increased skill acquired; the high standard of qualification now required of graduates should remove the 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 of our own 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 lectureships here. From a literary and scientific standpoint, the advantages accruing to