

before the Society; a decrease of two compared with the previous year. He stated that the papers were contributed principally by the junior members of the profession, which was to their credit—only five being read by those occupying what might be termed the intermediate stage, while the seniors made a poor appearance, which he regretted exceedingly. Allusion was made to the discussions which, upon two or three occasions, had taken place with a view of preparing a new tariff for the guidance of members, and hoped that, when completed, it would be found of great use. A resolution, conveying thanks to the retiring officers, was carried unanimously. The election of officers for the ensuing year then took place, and resulted as follows:—President, Dr. William H. Hingston; First Vice-President, Dr. Reddy; Second Vice-President, Dr. Robert Craik; Council, Drs. Godfrey, Fenwick, and Francis W. Campbell. The Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. T. G. Roddick, was re-elected by acclamation. His financial report was read, and was eminently satisfactory, there being a considerable balance in his hands.

The meetings will take place every fortnight during the winter, and we trust that the attendance will be excellent. We also cannot help expressing the hope, that the "gentle rebuke" of the retiring President will not be lost upon the seniors in the profession.

TYPHOID FEVER IN MILK.

Our European exchanges have for some time back been filled with details, concerning an outbreak of typhoid fever, which occurred in a particular locality in the city of London, towards the end of last July and commencement of August. Within a comparatively short time some five or six hundred persons were attacked, who belonged to about one hundred and fifty families, all occupying, more or less, good positions in society, and who resided pretty much in close proximity to each other. It is a fact, somewhat singular, that among the first to be attacked was the family of Dr. Murchison, a well-known authority on fevers. Three of his children were seized with the disease upon the same day, and within a week two others were prostrated. Dr. Murchison, feeling convinced that the sanitary arrangements of his house were satisfactory, believed that some outside cause must be sought for. Reflecting upon other cases of typhoid fever, which had occurred months before, and to which his attention had been given, his thoughts were directed to his milk supply, and enquiry among his medical friends in his neighborhood, confirmed his suspicions. On the fourth of

August he communicated the facts he had collected to the Medical Health officer of the District, who at once notified a large Dairy Company, who supplied pretty generally the locality with milk, of the information he had received. From this time new cases rapidly occurred, and as the neighborhood is largely populated with well-known medical men, many of the cases were members of their families. All of those attacked had partaken of the milk of this Dairy Company; and, convinced of the source of the disease, Dr. Murchison and Sir William Jenner appealed to them to suspend its sale, which they declined, until satisfied of its being the cause of the epidemic. The disease continuing to spread still among its customers, arrangements were made for an inspection of all the farms from which the supply of milk was drawn. The result of the investigation was such as to prove conclusively that the suspicion of Dr. Murchison, as to milk being the source of the poison, was correct. Those appointed to investigate the matter discovered that a well upon one of the farms was polluted by the drainage from a privy into which the evacuations of a typhoid patient had been emptied, and that the neighborhood was not free from the disease. At once the supply from this farm was stopped, and the epidemic began to abate. As the Company affirm that the water from this well was not used to dilute the milk, nor even the cows supplied with drink from it, it becomes a question how the poison succeeded in getting into the milk. The reply suggested is that the water was used for washing out the milk cans. To many this may not appear as being a sufficient explanation; yet, if correct theories in regard to fever poison and its power of multiplication be admitted, it is just possible, at some time or other, sufficient water may have been left in a can to carry the seeds of the disease. Altogether the information which has been obtained is important, proving that every possible precaution should be observed with regard to purity of milk, as that fluid is said to be peculiarly favorable to the rapid increase of the poison of typhoid fever. We all know how rapidly butter and milk take in a flavor, which may be called *turnippy*, when the animals are fed on turnips; and, although we have no positive proof that organic poisons will pass into the milk without decomposition, it is just within the bounds of possibility.

Typhoid fever continues prevalent in Montreal, but so far as we can learn, it is generally of a mild character.