

ial spirits have an opportunity of finding their affinities. But of course above all these are the advantages to be derived from an educative point of view. Next to a post-graduate course there is nothing so instrumental in stimulating a man to be "up-to-date" as attendance at these meetings. New ideas are not only presented but old ideas are ploughed up, and in the discussion of the various papers and cases much new knowledge is gained, new methods of treatment are suggested, and thus with very little mental effort the practitioner has had his knowledge of a given subject revised and brought up to date. Here too, we find out the difficulties which other men have to encounter, we hear of their successes, and, what is often of just as much advantage, of their failures too, and from these many lessons are to be learned and men are fortified for meeting the same difficulties at some future date.

No doubt by attending these meetings cases are sometimes lost, but the public is an observing body and it very soon comes to recognise men who are athirst after knowledge, who sacrifice themselves to attain greater proficiency in their profession and thus to be more valuable to the public, and where one case is lost the appreciative public makes it up by supplying others. So that while these are by no means *all* the advantages which might be urged, we must conclude that physically, mentally and financially it pays to attend medical gatherings.

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## THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

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The Nova Scotia Branch of this Association is about to begin its 15th session. For a number of years past it has had a record of increasing popularity and usefulness. Its fortnightly meetings during the winter months are looked forward to as events of both profit and pleasure. Much of the friendliness and good-fellowship which exists between members of the profession in Halifax is born and fostered at its meetings. We do not know of an instance when ill-will has taken origin in its precincts. Were these the only benefits arising we would have something to our advantage—but far beyond this is the educative influence of such an organization. At its meet-