

and means of prevention of infectious diseases, etc. The Journal of the Association came in for a share of criticism, and although the exhibit was not very flattering, the feeling evinced upon the whole was to give it a trial for another year. Dr. H. F. Campbell, of Georgia, was elected President for the ensuing year, and New Orleans selected as the next place of meeting on the last Tuesday in April, 1885. The following gentlemen were appointed delegates to the Canada Medical Association, Drs. W. S. Tremaine, E. N. Bush, W. Brodie, and H. O. Walker.

ANÆSTHESIA BY THE RECTUM. — This new method of producing anæsthesia first suggested by Dr. Molliere of Lyons, has attracted considerable attention of late. The advantages of such a method in operations about the mouth and throat are certainly very great, rendering it possible to maintain anæsthesia without inconveniencing the operator. It also diminishes in most cases the stage of excitement, lessens the tendency to vomiting, and does away with the uncomfortable local effects following the contact of the vapor with the air passages. But while there are advantages there are also some objections to the method. Among the objections may be mentioned distension of the bowels by the vapor of ether, the tendency to the production of diarrhœa, and the difficulty of regulating the degree of anæsthesia, as there is no means of withdrawing the ether when once introduced into the bowel, and being continuously absorbed after anæsthesia has been already complete, there is danger of serious results. The quantity of ether required to produce anæsthesia by this method is very small, the average being about two ounces. The mode of administering it is as follows: Two ounces of ether are put into a bottle the mouth of which is connected by rubber tubing with the vaginal nozzle of a Davidson syringe, which is inserted into the rectum. The bottle containing the ether is then placed in a vessel of water of about 120°F. The ether boils and the vapor passes into the bowel. It is hardly necessary to say that the bowels should be well cleared out before proceeding to etherize by this method. It is not at all likely that the rectal method will supersede the ordinary way, but it is undoubtedly a valuable addition to it, and one that will prove most serviceable in certain cases.

CEMETRIES AND WARER SUPPLY. — We have received a copy of the *Star and Herald* of Panama in which we find a very interesting letter by Dr. Wolfred Nelson, formerly of Montreal, on the above subject. From this we learn that the native cemeteries in Panama are in a most deplorable condition. Fully one-half of the dead are buried without coffins. Coffins are secured at a small rental for the funeral; at the grave the dead are taken out wrapped in a sheet and buried. The coffin is returned to the shop of the undertaker, in its turn to serve as a disease-producing factor. Owing to the smallness of the lot, in twelve months or less, the coffins, or bones, or both, as the case may be, are rudely disturbed to make way for "new arrivals" and are cast out of their temporary homes. Within that lot one sees scattered about coffins, pieces of coffins, bones, skulls, parts of clothing, etc., etc. For decency's sake they are gathered together occasionally, and burned, but what of the germs? This goes on under our intertropical sun, with an average yearly temperature of 84° in the shade. Can health be expected under such circumstances? These germs in millions are cast loose from what should be their final resting place, and fly abroad to cause new diseases and death. Surely there is great need of sanitary reform in such a community as this, and Dr. Nelson has certainly earned the thanks of the citizens for his efforts on their behalf.

MANITOBA MEDICAL COLLEGE. — The first session of the Manitoba Medical College was brought to a close by a grand dinner being given at the Douglass House, Winnipeg. About sixty invitations were issued and all the leading physicians in the city besides gentlemen connected with the educational interests of Manitoba were present. Few medical schools have been started under more favorable circumstances, not only as regards numbers in attendance, but also from the high educational status of the students generally. During the past session eighteen students have enrolled their names on the college register, and a number of applications of second year men from Ann Arbor Medical School Mich., also from the Toronto Schools of Medicine have been received, and there is every prospect of a very large attendance next session. The following are the professors and lecturers of the college: Dr. Kerr, Dean and Prof. of the princi-