

ion at large, that we shall take an early opportunity of publishing the address. There is no doubt that year by year the class of well-to-do people, who could afford to pay a physician, and yet who fraudulently obtain his services for nothing, is greatly increasing, and it is quite time that something should be done about it. We shall discuss this subject in a future editorial. Our two distinguished medical and surgical knights, Sir James Grant and Sir William Hingston, were present, and contributed not a little to the interest of the meeting. They were among the few of its founders who are still alive, and may justly be called the fathers of the Association. One of the others, Dr. Thorburn, of Toronto, was elected President for the ensuing year, and will preside at the meeting in Montreal next August.

We cannot in justice to Dr. Starr close these remarks without testifying to his great zeal and energy as Secretary General, which contributed so greatly to the success of the meeting. As long as Dr. Starr holds that position we can count upon having a full programme for every session.

MUNICIPAL CONTROL OF UNNECESSARY NOISES.

Dr. Augustus Clarke, of Cambridge, Mass., read a very opportune paper, at the recent meeting of the American Medical Association, on the question of state or municipal control of artificial agencies which produce unnecessary noises. Anyone living in a large city, especially if his nervous system has been highly developed by education, must often have suffered acutely from the unnecessary noises with which his ears are constantly assailed. At one moment it is a man shouting "coal oil" hundreds of times in a distance of as many yards; another shouting "bananas;" then a Scotch coal cart comes tearing down the street, creating a frightful din. On streets paved with cobble-stones, as many streets are, the unnecessary noises are multiplied tenfold. Then there is the hurdy-gurdy man, and on the main streets the dreadful clanging of the electric street car bells, which make a great deal more noise than there is any need for. The cars themselves, owing to the roughness of their machinery and the lack of care,

apparently, in seeing that it works smoothly, cause still more noise. So that those who have the misfortune to have their homes located on any of these streets or lines of travel are condemned to loss of sleep, which often means loss of health; then the sick, for whose benefit the medical profession exists, suffer still more acutely from these unnecessary noises. At present it appears that there is no control over them whatever: the coal cart boy can bang and rattle his cart over the stone pavements; and the hurdy-gurdy man can grind his dreadful organ; and that banana man, with his bananas at ten cents a dozen, can keep on making life not worth living, without anyone having the right to interfere. Should anyone in desperation throw boiling water on them, he would of course become amenable to the law. So, as Professor Clarke says, "have not the minority of the people who thus suffer some vested rights that the majority are bound to respect? Surely," he remarks, "the persons to whom the physician for the most part is summoned to treat belong to this latter class."

PERSONALS.

At a recent meeting of the Trustees of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred on Dr. John Collins Warren, Professor of Surgery in Harvard University.

At a recent meeting of the Faculty of Bishop's College Dr. Laphorn Smith was appointed Professor of Clinical Gynæcology.

BOOK NOTICES.

PRACTICAL DIETETICS, with special reference to diet in disease. By W. Gilman Thompson, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Clinical Medicine in the University of the City of New York; Visiting Physician to the Presbyterian and Bellevue Hospitals, New York. Large octavo, eight hundred pages, illustrated. Price, cloth, \$5.00; sheep, \$6.00. Sold by subscription only. D. Appleton & Co., publishers, 72 Fifth Ave., New York.

The subject is one which does not receive proper attention either in medical colleges or in the standard works upon the Theory and Practice of Medicine, the directions given in the latter being of a very general and vague character, and in the former it is dismissed in one or