

attention which their great importance demanded, and this because it was impossible, apparently, to force into the Civic head that the life of a human being was worth far more to the country than was that of an ox or a hog. Strenuous efforts were made by the Legislature to prevent the spread of disease among these animals, but the animal—man—was neglected. Dr. Campbell alluded to the miserable accommodation afforded in the Civic Small-pox Hospital. He also spoke of the labors of the Medical Health officer, Dr. Larocque, whose indefatigable labors deserved the support of every member of the profession.

Dr. REDDY thought that a compulsory bill by the Dominion Parliament should be passed to deal with this question.

Dr. TRENHOLME said there were some matters, as registration of births, marriages and deaths that might be legislated on by the Dominion Parliament, but this was a question demanding provincial legislation or stringent civic attention. To show how readily this foul disease can be and is spread, he spoke of having entered a house where some fifteen women were sewing furs for one of our largest business houses, and in the same room lay a child all covered with small-pox. He felt that Dr. Larocque should be supported and encouraged by the members of the medical profession.

Dr. BESSEY said that animal vaccination should be supplied to all those who objected to humanized lymph, as there was a prevailing opinion among some that in the latter way disease was communicated. The subject of animal vaccination is now exciting attention in England.

Dr. OSLER said there is a general feeling in the Western States that Montreal is filled with small-pox, and there is a dread in the minds of many of coming to this city. He denounced the utterly inadequate accommodation at present offered in the Small-pox Hospital, and expressed as, in his opinion, the best mode of dealing with this foul and fatal disease that established in Germany in 1872. Hospital accommodation was provided, and then all cases were compelled to go to the hospital, the result being that the epidemic was stamped out. It is fearful to think that in this period of civilization the pest should have existed here for many years, and for the past ten years in almost epidemic form,

and yet so little effort should have been made to rid the city of a disease that is carrying off many of its inhabitants and marring its commercial prosperity.

Dr. HENRY HOWARD said that for many years he had known the Parliamentary Conservative leaders, and the invariable answer to those pressing legislation was, "Do the people demand it?" It was therefore no use asking for legislation before public opinion was sufficiently powerful to sustain and execute the law passed. One most serious drawback in this Province to arousing an interest in this matter was the lamentable ignorance of the people, who looked upon everything that happened as of inevitable necessity. When small-pox enters a house they quietly fold their hands and say, "It is the will of God." As long as such a spirit exists little can be done to cleanse the land of this dire disease. However, it is the duty of all intelligent people to do what they can towards effecting a remedy, and of this Society to sustain Dr. Larocque in his efforts towards this end.

Dr. BESSEY further stated that he had on several occasions seen a number of women congregated in a room making clothes for business houses with small-pox in the same room.

Dr. R. P. HOWARD, in bringing the debate to a close, stated that the thanks of the Society were due Dr. Larocque, for presenting a paper bearing upon matters of such vital interest to this city. He felt that probably sufficient interest had not been taken in the question of sanitary matters. We owe a debt to Dr. Larocque and to the other members of the Board, who have without reward given their time to this question. He thought that both sides of the argument of legislation were right. Whereas legislators do at times that which they are forced to do, at other times they rise above prejudice, and enact that which they conscientiously feel to be right.

The meeting was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to Dr. Larocque, moved by Dr. F. W. Campbell, seconded by Dr. Henry Howard.

O. C. EDWARDS, M.D.,  
Secretary.

#### BIRTH.

In Montreal, on the 10th February, the wife of Dr. George A. Baynes of a son.

In Montreal, on the 24th February, the wife of Dr. Alexander Proudfoot of a son.