

be faithfully registered, and when a sufficient number has been accumulated, then some one will rise to the emergency, and establish the law of their production.

Medical science has always required patient research, and never more so than at the present time; its foundations are based upon the laws of being, and these laws are bound up with, and modify every change in the organism. And as there is no domain of nature but what may throw light upon our path, the amount of knowledge requisite to become a well grounded member of the profession will steadily increase until it touches the inconceivable. And if the scientists who can stand on the firm earth, and have to deal with matter in its more simple combinations, have still before them vexed problems and long years of patient research, how much greater must be the endurance of the physician who has to determine his certainties amid the shifting sands of life, where the varying phases are all but infinite and the organic forces and mental powers assume protean shapes.

In May Dr. Steves and I went to Louisville to attend the meeting of the American Medical Association. We were most kindly received, and they have responded by appointing six of their number to be present at our session. There is evidence that the meetings of their Association are producing a very beneficial result upon the whole profession in that country; not only is the tone and standing of the profession raised by the mixing of the leaders and veterans with the general body, but its culture and intellectual attainments force upon the public a truer estimate of its importance. A late President, Dr. J. M. Toner, says: "It must be apparent to all that the concentration of medical thought, and the scientific aspirations of the profession of the country, as expressed through the Central Association, are such that by its unity of action it exercises more influence now over the public and profession than ever before; or than would be possible without such combined association. This is particularly noticeable in States in which there has been recent legislation affecting the profession and public health." Again "It is a source of sincere congratulation that our medical educational institutions are rapidly enlarging and perfecting their curriculums;

and becoming more thorough and efficient in teaching the science of medicine." Too much importance cannot be attached to the attainments required of the members of our profession, for, "it is our distinction and hope that to secure its largest practical amelioration, society must look mainly to us—our range of duty being the whole organization of man in health and disease—psychically as well as physically we alone offer that wider field of new action which an advanced society now requires. All that gives happiness, assuages pain, prevents disease, lengthens life, betters the individual or improves the race—these, the great concerns of living humanity, and carrying with them the principal morals of society, belong to our care. On them we are the only teachers that can speak with authority, or that, by and by, will be listened to with conviction. We alone can make theory on them, give way to demonstration, speculation to ascertained fact, doubt to certitude; and outside our pale there is no teaching nor knowledge that is secular beyond what forms a fraudulent empiricism on one side, and a perilous credulity on the other."—*Medical Times*.

There is a subject which I would submit to the Association for its consideration, and that is, the want of a registration of births, deaths and marriages. In some of the Provinces it does not exist, and it will be for you to decide whether a memorial from this Association to the general government will tend to hasten that most to be desired action of the Dominion Legislature.

---

*Surgical Cleanliness.* By EDWARD FARRELL, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Halifax Medical College, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Read before the Canadian Medical Association, August 7, 1875.

A question which has given rise to much discussion of late years; the dressing of wounds, especially the wounds resulting from surgical operation, is still of the greatest importance to the practical surgeon.

In this very short paper which is meant more to elicit the opinion of the members of this Association than to produce an exhaustive review of this subject, I will not attempt an enumeration of the various causes of fatality after surgical operation, but I shall get at once into the subject of the paper, and divide