

the base of the brain, and on both temporo-sphenoidal lobes, but there was no disease of the middle ear—that common cause of pyæmia in childhood.

PROVINCE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

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WITH the appearance of a journal, the name of which implies a special interest in the scientific work of Medicine, attention is naturally directed to the extent of this science in Canada and what the members of the profession are doing for its development. At once there will be recalled the names of several who have done, and are still doing, good work in physiology, pathology and other branches, but for the present it will be sufficient to turn to the profession at large and search for what has been contributed by the general practitioner. It is to be feared the result will not be encouraging. A miscellaneous collection of papers and reports will be found, some bearing the stamp of originality and talent and of undoubted value, but medical science has been advanced but little, if at all, by these voluminous publications. The work of the past as at the present has had no thought for the future. There is no history of disease in this country, no record of epidemics that have occurred, no information regarding the types of disease that have affected the successive generations. To-day we are not doing much better. Epidemics come and go without provoking any scientific enquiry; our epidemic diseases are but little known and the influence of locality on general diseases has not been studied as it should be. There is no information of this character sufficiently tabulated for study or comparison ten or twenty years hence. The same barrenness is noticable in our medical corporations and associations. They are busy active bodies, perform a great deal of work and do much good in their way, but accomplish little that is permanent or of benefit to their successors. The hospitals are without value when viewed in this light. The least that may be expected of them is an annual record of observations on some class of disease, or the report of even a single remedy applied in a scientific manner. Our gatherings recur monthly or annually as the case may be, and furnish an invaluable opportunity for interchange of ideas. All who attend

them are benefitted, but no systematic work is carried on from one meeting to another—no collection of facts added to year by year. Our medical schools are not fulfilling their duty to the profession. At present they are simply teaching bodies when they should be centres of learning. They train the mind and should not close their intercourse with the examinations: if they would retain their grasp, a power of inestimable value is in their possession. Each professor should expect some return in kind, and maintain a directing influence over his handiwork. Perhaps the only body whose energies are directed to this systematic work is the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario. It is laboring constantly and perseveringly to this end, gathering information in a scientific manner and storing it, not for the present, but for all time. Such a system is wanted in all the Provinces, new as well as old, unsettled as well as those settled for years.

The blame of all this cannot be placed on the individual practitioner. Our cities and villages furnish keen, industrious members, well trained and proud of their profession. The attendance at medical meetings and the papers read and prepared for publication, indicate a desire to aid the progress of Medicine and add to the general fund of knowledge. It is easy to trace the fault, not to the workers, but to the manner in which their work is performed.

All is being done without system or method. Every one is working independently and aimlessly. What is wanted is a powerful directing mind to control the wasting energy and direct the spasmodic efforts into the proper channel. The country is full of ripened experience ready to be gathered and active minds prepared for work.

While it is impossible to command this power to organize our work, we can readily turn to the centre whence it should come. The Canada Medical Association is the one organization that reaches throughout the country. It has a greater work to perform than the mere reading and discussing of papers. It should arrange for reports from every medical society with an account of the papers read and the work they have done; the same should be expected from all hospitals and boards of health. The report of each section should review the special work of its section throughout the country, and not as at present consist of a paper on some