

Original Communications.

Address delivered before the Canada Medical Association, at St. John, New Brunswick, August 6th, 1873, BY J. A. GRANT, M.D., M.P., president.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—Exactly eight years have elapsed since the first organization of this Association. Our meetings up to the present have been in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, but on no previous occasion have we assembled under more auspicious circumstances, welcomed as we are to so favourable a position as the City of St. John, the chief commercial centre of the Province of New Brunswick. From the wide spread character of our New Dominion, we could not expect the presence of many from the distant parts at these meetings; still, on every occasion, this Province, as well as Nova Scotia, was ably represented, and it is a recognized fact, that to the activity, energy and ability of the gentlemen from the Maritime Provinces, who previously filled the Presidential chair, this Association owes in a great measure its present degree of usefulness. Thus we observe that in medical science as well as in diplomatic affairs, these Provinces have taken no small part in the prosperity of the whole Dominion.

It was with no assumed feelings of humility that I expressed at our previous meeting, at Montreal, my lively sense of the responsibility of the duties that devolved upon me, performed with such marked distinction by my worthy predecessors. I trust that my efforts, however inadequate, will not flag in the accomplishment of what is right and best for that noble profession in which we should be, in the strict sense in the inspired words, "members one of another." We have a common estate in the science of medicine. We have a good work before us, and we do well to acknowledge our unity, and activity, in promoting, by these annual meetings, a oneness of feeling in the profession of the Dominion, and the advocacy of medical science in its most progressive form; side by side with the high-toned and intellectual members of the American Medical Association, alike interested in the advancement of medical science on this continent. Relying on the spirit which prompted you to confer on me the highest honour within the gift of the medical profession of this Dominion, I shall endeavour to discharge the duty as your presiding officer, in this position of trust and responsibility. Knowing, as I do, the great value of time in our short sessions, and how much work is expected to be accomplished, I shall confine

my remarks more especially to the appropriate subjects of the occasion. At our previous meetings much time was occupied in the discussion of a Dominion Medical Act, an able draft of which was presented by Dr. R. P. HOWARD of Montreal. After a lengthy debate, the conclusion arrived at was that this measure should rest *pro tem*. That the Medical Profession of the Dominion should be united by an Act in the Commons, is a point warmly and zealously advocated by many of the ablest members of our profession. By the Confederation Act, unfortunately all matters pertaining to education, as well as to public health, do not come within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government, and consequently are strictly matters of local legislation. It is much to be regretted: still, by the consent of the Local Governments, much may yet be accomplished, towards bringing about those radical changes, so necessary in order to simplify, in the widest and most comprehensive sense, subjects both educational and sanitary.

In the Province of Ontario, for the first time in this country, the three bodies Allopathic, Eclectic and Homœopathic—sat in one council and deliberated upon medical affairs. This union was considered somewhat unique by many staunch old conservatives in the profession. However, when the fact became known that during those nine years, not a single homœopathist or eclectic passed as such in Ontario, the reason of the union can readily be comprehended. A uniform standard of medical education was established, written and oral examinations demanded from each student, and being compulsory, was the means of directing in the proper channel many who might otherwise have found an easier entrance into the medical profession. Recently the chief of the Homœopathic body has seen fit to withdraw from the Council of Ontario, and we anticipate that extra medical legislation may arise, in order to gratify those who considered their professional claims somewhat ignored. I merely mention the facts, in order that the profession in these provinces may apprehend the nature of that union so heterogeneous and characteristic. The great aim and object of this Association is to cultivate and advance medical knowledge, to elevate the standard of medical education; to promote the best interests of the profession, and to direct public opinion, as to the duties and requirements of medical men; to encourage a fraternity of feeling in the profession in the most comprehensive sense. With these objects in view, on the present occasion our Addresses will be delivered; one on Surgery, by Dr. HINGSTON, of Montreal; one on Medicine, by