

and in aim among the profession in Canada for the advancement of this association. If what I have to say shall render even the slightest service to the cause of the association, and through it to the cause of medicine in Canada, I shall feel myself amply repaid.

The selection of Edmonton for the place of meeting of the association this year is significant. It marks the awakening of the East to the fact that this Western part of the middle West has come to man's estate, and is showing the lustiness of youth. We of Alberta who have grown up, so to speak, with the province, have been ourselves amazed at the strength and rapidity of her growth. But the East had not really recognized the fact. The Easterner knew much of Vancouver and Winnipeg, but little of Calgary and Edmonton. Your selection of Edmonton, therefore, came as a welcome surprise. When it was first suggested, we immediately set our hearts on it. We desired greatly to give you a taste of Western hospitality, and we desired also that you should see us and observe how well we were getting on. Perhaps there is in us some such spirit as that of the boy who insists on his father measuring his height against the door every month.

However all this may be, you are eventually here, and in the name of Edmonton, and of Alberta, I bid you heartily welcome.

This is only the second time that the association has held its annual meeting in Alberta. In 1889 it met at Banff, and there were only eighty-two present.

Only two meetings in the history of the association have been held in the West previous to the present one. Of these, one, as I have said, was held at Banff, twenty-three years ago, in the year 1889. The president was Dr. H. H. Wright, of Ottawa, and the general secretary was Dr. James Bell, of Montreal, both of whom have since died. The vice-president for the North-West Territories at that time was Dr. R. G. Brett, of Banff, who is so widely and favorably known throughout the West. The second of these meetings was held in Vancouver in August, 1904. The president was Dr. Tunstall, of Vancouver, and the secretary Dr. George Elliott, of Toronto. Dr. Elliott's annual report gave certain statistics of attendance which are interesting. He said that during the first decade after the organization of the association in 1867, there was an average attendance of seventy-one. In the second decade, from 1877 to 1887, there was an average attendance of 74.8; during the third decade, 107.5; while for the previous seven years, that is from 1897 to 1904, the average attendance was 139.1. In the light of these figures it is interesting to note that the average attendance for the past seven years has been 320, while if we count only the last three meetings since the inauguration of the *Journal* it is 400.