

Again. Has this Association advanced in membership and in influence as it should during the course of these years? As regards the first of these questions, it is not possible to give an answer in figures, for the reason that the method of recording our membership has been very loose; but, on looking at the minutes of the early meetings, it is seen that the attendance was large, and that the distant provinces were extremely well represented. As much cannot be said for the later meetings, at which, though the actual number present has been good, yet the attendance from the maritime provinces is noticed as having greatly fallen off. It is also matter for regret, that our French-Canadian *confrères*, many of whom were amongst the founders, and who came in large numbers to the early gatherings, have gradually ceased attending till, now, a very few only of the more literary-minded and enthusiastic of them unite with us in keeping up our national Association. It may be that the difficulty of using two languages has had something to do with this. I should like to see this difficulty overcome, and the Association strengthened by the hearty support of our brethren from the old Province of Quebec. It should be remembered that, at the International Congress, three languages—French, German and English—were recognized, and a speaker could address the meeting in any of these.

A suggestion made in the presidential address of last year deserves, I think, to be repeated, as no action was taken upon it, and it seems feasible and promises to be useful. It was proposed that a committee might be named to take into consideration a scheme arranging for a closer connection of some kind being brought about between this Association and the various provincial and local societies already in existence. Any suggestion which will add to our membership and increase the interest taken in our work, is worthy of being carefully considered. Without having looked into the question, I am not prepared to say just how this can be accomplished, but, if the meeting think with me in the matter, it will be competent for it to take action in that direction.

Another task which it has been thought suitable for this Asso-