

Correspondence.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Feb. 17th, 1890.

For the Maritime Medical News :

At the last Annual Meeting of the New Brunswick Medical Society held in St. John, on July last, a committee consisting of Drs. P. R. Moore, Wm. Christie, S. C. Murray, J. W. Daniel, and Geo. A. Hetherington, was appointed to confer with the Medical Societies of Nova Scotia and P. E. Island. Dr. Moore was elected Chairman, and Dr. Hetherington, Secretary. Dr. F. P. Taylor, of Charlotte-town, having been written to, will lay the matter before the P. E. Island Society, and as the next meeting of the New Brunswick Medical Society will be held in Moncton, (convenient for both P. E. Island and Nova Scotia members), at a date subsequent to the meeting of the Nova Scotia Society, the committee would suggest that the P. E. Island and Nova Scotia Societies appoint committees to meet the committee appointed by N. B. Medical Society at Moncton, during that meeting of Society. The members of the committee resident in St. John, took advantage of the presence in the city of Dr. W. Muir, of Truro, N. S., on Jan. 16th ult., and called a meeting of the available members, Dr. Daniel in the chair. After considerable discussion the following resolutions were unanimously carried :

Resolved—That in the opinion of this meeting it is advisable to form a Maritime Medical Association, and that such Association be composed of registered physicians practicing in the three lower provinces.

And further resolved,—That we ask the Nova Scotia and P. E. Island Societies, to appoint committees to confer with committee appointed by N. B. Medical Society,

And further resolved,—That among the objects of the Association may be included the advancement of the science of medicine and surgery, the furthering of the interests of the medical profession in these provinces, and the bringing together of its members in order that they may be mutually benefited, and become better acquainted; that the Association need not meet oftener than once in two years.

The members of the committee and Dr. Muir expressed the opinion that the MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS has already done a great deal to bring the profession in the different provinces in much closer relation than they previously were, that they feel the necessity of a still closer relation, and earnestly hope that the different societies will take hold of the matter in earnest, and that the result will be a Maritime Medical Association in the very near future.

GEO. A. HETHERINGTON, M. D., *Secretary*.

For the Maritime Medical News :

MR. EDITOR,—It is high time that some reform was made in the way in which druggists in general conduct their business, otherwise I would advise the members of the profession to keep their own drugs, or else combine and establish a drug store, with branches in different parts of the city, and send their prescriptions there. I have repeatedly seen druggists prescribing, and other physicians tell me that they have seen the same. Again, it is a well known fact, that druggists or some of them, do not hesitate to give their opinion freely as to the merits of a prescription. If the doctor happens to send them a good many prescriptions, he is a fine fellow and an able physician. Again in many instances, when a patient is in straightened circumstances, the druggist is about the only one who gets any money for

his trouble, and it has to be cash. Too often, I am sorry to say, the price of the medicine has been the same as to the man of means.

M. D.

For the Maritime Medical News :

MR. EDITOR,—I do not propose to furnish you with anything on the science of medicine; a little variety may not prove unacceptable to your readers. What I have to say does not affect the *being* of medicine; but it relates to the *well-being* of those engaged in its practice, inasmuch as it refers to the conduct of physicians to each other.

I have often thought, how different the world would be if men would only observe the golden rule, and do unto others as they would wish to be done by. What ethical principle, other than this, is necessary for the guidance of a physician in his relations to his brother physician. Under the impelling force of such a moral principle in the regulation of every act, he becomes one of nature's noblemen—a gentleman in the best and truest sense of the term. A man may have seen much of this world, dress finely, his coat may be decorated in every imaginable way, and he may have as many trinkets dangling about him as an African chief, and yet present less gentlemanly traits of conduct, than the man clad in homespun and but little travelled.

A physician may have spent the greater part of his professional life in a position in which his duties partook largely of the nature of a contract—a salary, with a well-defined line of duty, so that his professional work did not even bring him in contact with his associates, and no conflict of interests could arise. Yet a man may be such a crank, or have so much conceit, stimulated by an inordinate desire to be regarded as the first, and at all hazards, as to be constantly quarrelling with his brethren. Place such an individual where his professional life assumes a new phase—where his emoluments depend upon the *reputation* he has with the public, and the estimation in which he is held by them, and a powerful stimulus is given to the weak points of his character. He never loses an opportunity to bring himself before the public—especially to appear very learned and to assume an air of superiority. His movements are given to the press, with as much detail as a travelling circus; and the conveniences for consulting him are given as minutely to the press as a dry goods merchant sets forth the extent of his stock. If he happens to hold a position in any way connected with government control, he is careful to impress upon Cabinet ministers, that he has seen more and knows more than any one else. And he adopts methods to gain their ears, that honorable men would scorn to follow. He would even stoop to act the part of a pimp to score a point against his medical brethren.

He may belong to the Salvation Army, the Church Army, or the Queen's Army Reserve; his piety may be very loud, and he may be sure of Heaven; yet if he cannot brook defeat when he is out-voted on some pet scheme without saying swear words, what does it all amount to? A truly good man is a constant benediction upon his associates. He compels the respect of even the godless. Bad as the world is, respect is always paid to virtue. But in this practical age, when everything is brought to the test, men's religion is judged of by their daily conduct. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

I have left for consideration a novel method of creating a "boom," inasmuch as it involves a psychological question as to the person who is the actor. We have it on the highest