CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

This Association holds its annual meeting at Hamilton on the last day of August and the 1st of September. We trust the attendance will be large. We are glad to know that notwithstanding the attractions of the International Medical Congress at Washington a few days later, Montreal will be fully and ably represented. We predict a successful and a useful session.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

On the 5th of September, this assembly long looked forward to, with various feelings, by the different sections of the Medical profession in the United States, will open at Washington. Notwithstanding the bitter feelings, which have been the outcome of the division which took place among its promoters, in its early history, the attendance promises to be large, and influential—though not so much so as unanimity would have secured. Prominent men from abroad, and from the United States, whose presence was most desirable, will be absent; yet, others, possibly as earnest workers, have intimated their intention of taking part. Montreal will also be well represented at this Congress—although even here, the division, so to speak, compels, as a matter of propriety, the absence of some. Reduced rates are offered by the various railways.

THE ENGLISH COMMISSION ON PASTEUR'S METHOD OF PREVENTING OR TREATING HYDROPHOBIA.

The British Parliamentary Commission, which has been engaged in the study of Pasteur's work for several years, has finally presented a report, which expresses confidence in the truth of Pasteur's claims with regard (1) to the presence of hydrophobia virus in the spinal cord of animals dying with the disease, (2) to its transmissibility to other animals by inoculation, (3) to the fact that animals can thus be rendered refractory to subsequent inoculations, or even the bites of rabid animals. Finally, it is highly probable, even after such bites have been inflicted upon unprotected subjects, that subsequent inoculation as practised by Pasteur is of service in preventing the development of the disease.

The committee observe, "Making a fair allowance for uncertainties and other questions which cannot now be settled, we believe it sure that, excluding deaths after bites by rabid wolves, the proportion of deaths in the two thousand six hundred and eighty-two persons bitten by other animals was between 1 and 1.2 per cent., a proportion far lower than the lowest ever estimated among those not submitted to M. Pasteur's treatment, showing, even at this lowest estimate, a saving of not less than one hundred lives."

The value of M. Pasteur's method is further confirmed by the results obtained in certain groups of his cases. Of two hundred and thirty-three persons bitten by animals in which rabies was proved, either by inoculation from their spinal cords or by the occurrence of rabies in other animals or persons bitten by them, only four died. Without inoculation it is more than probable that at least forty would have died. Further illustration of this successful result is shown among other additional groups of cases. Between the end of last December and the end of March, M. Pasteur inoculated five hundred and nine persons bitten by animals proved to be rabid, either by inoculation from their spinal cords or by the death of some of those bitten by them, or as reported on by veterinary surgeons. Of this number only two have died. One of these was bitten by a wolf a month before inoculation, and died after only three days' treatment. If we omit say one-half of these cases as being too recent, the other two hundred and fifty have had a mortality of less than one per cent., instead of twenty to thirty per cent.

"From the evidence of all these facts," the committee then say, "we think it certain that the inoculations practised by Mr. Pasteur on persons bitten by rabid animals have prevented the occurrence of hydrophobia in the large proportion of those who, if they had not been so inoculated, would have died of that disease; and we believe that the value of his discovery will be found much greater than can be estimated by its present utility, for it shows a method of inoculation by which it may be possible to avert after infection other diseases besides hydrophobia. His researches have also added very largely to the knowledge of this disease, and have supplied what is of the highest practical value,—namely, a sure means of determining whether an animal that has died under a suspicion of rabies was affected really with the disease or not."