

"There is one more subject," added Dr. Temple, "I would wish to bring to your notice in the hope that some united action might be taken to rectify what I believe to be a positive injury to our profession—I mean the practice of attending our lodges and clubs for an annual fee of so much per head. I regret to say that this custom is becoming more and more widespread every day in our midst. I do not speak from motives of jealousy or personal interest, because I myself have none of it to do, but because I have always considered the practice as one lowering the standard of the profession. I sincerely believe that the man who indulges in this practice does himself a great injustice by giving his services for a fee far beneath their value. He injures his fellow-practitioner by depriving him of the legitimate means of making his living, and he lowers his profession in the eyes of the public by allowing them to buy his services at their own price. Surely if the laboring man by united action can fix the price and value of his labor, and declines to work unless he gets what he believes he is worth to his employer, we as a profession ought to be able to sustain a uniform standard of fees. It is a subject I would earnestly commend to your most careful consideration, and see if some means cannot be devised to rectify the present evil."

Dr. Temple then reviewed the history of the association, and pointed out the advantages it afforded to practitioners. If, he said, they sought for proof that the yearly gathering had accomplished much for the progress of the science, they need but listen to the members, who, while their days of the medical school were in the more or less distant past, discussed for the benefit of the association the most recent discoveries and theories of medicines with the consciousness of mastery that could only come from reading and from thought. The longer they practised the more clearly they realised that the classroom did not end their education. The existence of the association was an added bone of union between them, and must tend to foster the *esprit de corps* that would, if anything could, keep the profession free from quackery. The character and honor of the profession was in their

ows hands individually, as well as collectively, and just in proportion as they strive to raise it in public estimation would be the measure of their success. With reference to the elevation of the standard of medical education the President remarked that they were rapidly advancing in the right direction, and he hoped to live to see the day when medical and law students would be obliged to take a university degree before entering on their purely professional studies. There could be no question of the after benefit of a thorough education, and one reason, in his opinion, why more of their men did not contribute to the medical press was that they felt weak in their groundwork. While the improvement in the standard of preliminary education had been decided, although not all they could wish, the progress in purely medical training had been so rapid that the student of the present time found himself in an enviable position when compared with that of his less fortunate brothers of a few years ago. The attention given to clinical instruction was a credit to Ontario institutions. The wards of the hospital afforded abundant material for the learner, and in addition to the present clinical advantages, there would shortly be another hospital, thanks to the munificent gift of the late Senator Macdonald.

The promotion of the public health was an important branch of the association's objects. It might seem paradoxical that they should do their best to minimise the existence of the very thing the treatment of which they had chosen to supply their means of livelihood. Joking apart, this prevention of disease was one of the many noble, self-denying acts of the honorable physician.

Having spoken briefly of some of the other objects of the association, the President dwelt at some length on the question of the etiology of the so-called puerperal fever, and the best method of preventing rather than curing the complaint. He went exhaustively into the views of pathologists and bacteriologists who had given the question particular study, and reviewed the nature of the disease and gave some excellent advice to physicians as to the methods they should adopt to