

sarcastically said that he did not believe there was a skilled sanitarian in all the National Marine Hospital service.

Dr. Kennedy stated that he was not at all impressed with the value of the inland quarantine system, and said that he feared an epidemic of yellow fever and cholera this year, but the doctor did not state the basis of his fears, though he rather intimated that they were due to lack of an effective system of quarantine.

Dr. Bryce described the admirable workings of the Canadian quarantine system, and pointed out the desirability and necessity for the unification of the methods from the quarantine of the General Government through that of State and Provincial down to port and local authorities generally.

Dr. Hewitt asked the Chair to appoint a committee to confer and correspond with and visit the maritime quarantine systems, to investigate and ascertain the best methods of quarantining from infectious diseases. The Chair will announce the committee.

The question proposed by the State Board of Health of Vermont, "What legal authority ought State Boards of Health to possess in the absence of Local Boards?" was widely discussed by the conference, the discussion consisting of a statement of the laws and systems in effect and in use in the different States.

Dr. Hewitt, of Minnesota, states the vigorous measures used in the State to suppress and stamp out infectious diseases. He said that in Minneapolis there occurred a small epidemic of seventy cases of small-pox. The Board took immediate and vigorous action, and before even the reporters ascertained the fact that small-pox existed in the State. Others spoke regarding the local methods in their respective States and Provinces. Dr. B. Lee, Secretary, State of Pennsylvania, then read a paper, appearing elsewhere in this number, on "The attitude of State Boards towards Leprosy." A committee consisting of Drs. Lee, Orme, of California, and Dr. Bryce, Ontario, were appointed to examine yet more fully into the introduction of it to this continent and its contagious tendency, to report at the next annual meeting.

The conference, in renewing the discussion on Dr. Hewitt's proposition, appointed a committee to nominate a special committee to examine into the quarantine methods along the various coast-

lines, and to take such action in the interval before next annual conference, as the natural safety against small-pox, cholera, or yellow fever might demand.

#### The Ontario Medical Library Association.

BY D. J. GIBB WISHART, B.A., M.B., SECRETARY.

To the Editor:

TORONTO, May 24th, 1888.

*Dear Sir:*—Regarding our newly formed Library Association, I desire to give the following facts:—

*Aim.*—This Association has been formed to provide a Reference Medical Library for the use of the profession throughout the Province. All engaged in original investigations or desirous of making contributions to medical literature, must have felt in the past the pressing need that existed for such a collection of books, which as occasion arose, they could consult. Valuable libraries are frequently broken up under the hammer of the auctioneer, which should find a fitting resting place upon the shelves of our Institution, and not only confer benefit upon the profession at large, but serve as a lasting memorial to the physicians who laboriously collect them at great expense.

*Organization.*—By the concerted action of several bodies representing the profession in Ontario—*i. e.*, the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Ontario Medical Association, and the Toronto Medical Society, a committee was appointed in 1887, whose members have secured incorporation under the above title, in compliance with the statute regulating Library Associations. This provisional board has elected interim officers, and is engaged in the preparation of a constitution and by-laws, which will be submitted to the first annual meeting.

*Financial Position.*—Stock books having been opened, a canvas of the local profession was made and upwards of \$3,000.00 have so far been secured.

The shares are placed at \$5.00 each. The nominal capital is \$10,000.00, all of which, it is hoped, will shortly be subscribed for.

*Location.*—The Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons has shown its cordial and practical sympathy with the objects of the Association, in placing at its disposal at a nominal rental, a large and well-lighted room, situated in its magnificent and commodious building, recently erected at the corner of Bay and Richmond Streets, Toronto.