

able to the fighter and the medical profession. Here, as elsewhere, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Persecution of sectarians, under their official designation, but increases their prosperity and discredits the medical profession. The profession is drifting to the practice of ignoring the special name and of looking after qualifications for doing creditable work, of persuading individuals to abandon untenable errors in theory or practice, or better still, of so training medical students that they will avoid "isms" and "pathies" and intelligently enter upon their relations with active physicians.

Conclusions.—1. In the matter of consultations the medical profession is drifting from the law written in 1847 to the unwritten law inherent in the medical profession since the first doctor entered upon his work—far anterior to any historic record.

2. This drifting was inaugurated and is continued by forces and agencies which have made the nineteenth century the most remarkable in history—individual men or institutions have merely served as instruments for the operation of these forces and agencies.

3. There need be no anxiety concerning this drifting. The medical profession will always remain anchored to its fundamental nature of a competent honorable brotherhood. The changes sought are merely the substitution of a thing of universal application for a sectarian name of limited scope. It is sought to exclude from fellowship all who are incompetent, or disreputable, whether they have or have not a sectarian name. The final attainment of this drifting will mark a far higher standard of professional life, and a truer exemplification of individual liberty.

4. It is believed that we are drifting towards the practical adoption of the following: "Every physician shall be deemed eligible for professional consultation who has shown that he has such preliminary training as enabled him to comprehend the study of medicine; has fully mastered the elements of medical science and art; has complied with existing laws respecting physicians in the state of his residence; and who has maintained an honorable reputation. Of these qualifications the physicians of his locality shall be the final judges. If those who know him best endorse him, then shall he be freely admitted to membership in

all medical organizations and be eligible for consultations."

5. If the profession fails to agree upon a statement in substance like the preceding, the logic of events points to a rejection of the entire written law of 1847, and return to the unwritten law of previous centuries—the one now holding sway in all countries except the United States,

## DIPHTHERIA.

BY W. J. WILSON, M.D., TORONTO.

*Mr. President and Members.*—That we may the better understand the treatment of diphtheria, it is essential that we should review the morbid anatomy of the disease and the conditions predisposing to it.

It is a disease mostly of early life, that being the time when adenoid tissue is most abundant in the throat and naso-pharynx, when glandular activity is greatest, and when nasal secretions are not only more abundant but are longer retained in situ than at any other period. Enlarged tonsils strongly predispose, from their prominence in the air passage, and especially from the amount of secretion retained around them. Associated with this condition, adenoid vegetations frequently block more or less the post nasal space, and produce mouth breathing and a more or less abnormal condition of all the surrounding parts.

A healthy mucous membrane will resist the disease much better than one that is defective. A bad stomach with coated tongue, or decayed teeth filled with food is a constant menace. The proximity of manure heaps, the throwing of kitchen slops just out of the door, and the storing all winter in large cellars under the dwelling, as is frequently done by farmers, of large quantities of vegetables, are frequent predisposing causes in country districts. In cities where the sewers contain the Klebs-Löffler bacillus bad plumbing is a most fruitful cause. Of course where the germ of diphtheria is not in the sewer, the effects of sewer gas are to lower the vital forces, as would any unsanitary condition, and thus render the system more susceptible to the poison.

The conditions found vary much with the severity of the case. The membrane may spread