

fessional intercourse, and we can have nothing to say to them or their work. This is the only sentiment worthy of the medical profession in its dealings with medical quacks, and the time has come when the revival of its old spirit is most earnestly to be desired.—*London Lancet*.

WASTED OPPORTUNITIES.

To the thoughtful mind, the waste of clinical opportunity observable in our large medical centres, and in Philadelphia perhaps no less than elsewhere, appears deplorable and discreditable. While the question of misplaced medical charity and of excessive gratuitous treatment has aroused no little attention, yet it must be remembered that the medical profession at large may be losers in more ways than through the pocket. The scores of young professional men who seize eagerly on each vacant position occurring in dispensaries and out-patient departments of hospitals too often forget that in entering upon the privileges of these posts they at the same time tacitly assume the obligation to themselves, as well as to their profession, to make the best possible use of the chances offered for recording unusual cases, experimenting with new remedies, or even the collection of statistics. That this may be done is shown from the fact that some of the most creditable papers appearing in our journals or read before our societies are from the few younger men whose only opportunity for clinical research is found in our out-patient or dispensary practice. In fact, books reflecting honour on the writers and on the profession of this city have within recent years been written by those who have had no beds in hospitals nor even the large clinical advantages enjoyed by the considerable number of young hospital and dispensary doctors whose chief ambition at times appears to be to get through the day's work and have it over with, and who are content to prescribe "house-mixtures" and "Pill 3" or "4" as the quickest way of disposing of cases, while numerous problems to be solved are lying ready to hand and calling for study and investigation.

Bacon, in an oft-quoted aphorism, says that "every man is to be held a debtor to his pro-

fession; from the which as men of course do seek countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereunto." Would that this wholesome sentiment could be graven on the walls of every hospital and clinic!—*Philadelphia Medical Times*.

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND DIVISION QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

It has been considered advisable by some members of the Ontario Medical Association to have local meetings in each of the four divisions of the Province, convened by the Vice-Presidents, in the months of September, December, and March; and Dr. J. E. White, the General Secretary, has communicated with the different Vice-Presidents and Local Secretaries, asking for their opinions on the subject. Through the kindness of Dr. White, we have had an opportunity of looking over the various replies, and find there is by no means an unanimity of feeling in favour of the scheme. In fact two of the three Vice-Presidents who have replied are opposed to it, and under these circumstances we think it would be very unwise to urge its adoption, at least before the next general meeting to be held in June, 1882. We can see nothing to be gained by the proposed plan, as it would probably interfere with many city, county, and electoral division societies already organized throughout the Province, and in our opinion, the aim of the General Association should rather be to give these its countenance, and court their reciprocal favour and support.

A BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

In order that the representations which are to be made to Parliament during the ensuing session, as to the desirability, nay, the absolute necessity, of establishing a Public Health department, it is desired to secure as many medical signatures as possible to a petition setting forth such necessity, and with this object in view blanks have been issued, some of which will be found enclosed in our present issue and others in that of the *Canada Lancet*. It is to be hoped that members of the profession in all