

making it the chief work of their lives, have indulged in superfluities as far as medico-legal cases are concerned.

Our friends in the Province of Quebec are setting us a good example in this respect. On Wednesday, June 8th, a deputation representing the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, waited upon the Attorney-General of the Province of Quebec and presented the following memorial on behalf of the members of the society:

At the regular meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, held Friday, May 27th, 1892, the president, Dr. Buller, in the chair, and forty members present, the question of appointing an expert for performing autopsies ordered by the coroner was discussed. The very inefficient and unsatisfactory manner in which, with a few memorable exceptions, such coroners' autopsies have been performed has been a subject of regret to all who desire to see this important work carried out in a satisfactory manner. It has been felt by members of the medical profession of Montreal that the ends of justice have been more than once defeated by the unsatisfactory way in which the work has been done. In most of the cities of the size of Montreal a thoroughly competent person with special training performs this work, and it is felt that the time has come when the city and district of Montreal should have the advantage of such special skill.

The following resolution embodying these views was moved by Dr. T. G. Roddick, and seconded by Dr. W. H. Hingston, and carried:

Whereas the city of Montreal is without a properly qualified expert to perform autopsies for medico-legal purposes; and

Whereas the present system of allotting coroners' autopsies to the physician most readily accessible at the time is such that it is impossible for any one physician to acquire the experience necessary to become an expert; and

Whereas the system adopted in European and most American cities, allotting all medico-legal autopsies to a specially qualified coroner's physician, has proved highly satisfactory;

Resolved, that the Government of the Province of Quebec be, and hereby is, petitioned to appoint some capable physician, thoroughly skilled in *post mortem* work, to act as coroner's physician for this city, and to perform all autopsies for medico-legal purposes within the city and district of Montreal.

F. BULLER, *President*,
KENNETH CAMERON, *Secretary*.

ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The recent meeting of the Ontario Medical Council, held June 14 to 18, was not prolific of any startling legislation of any kind. It was hoped that some strenuous efforts would be made to allay the hostile feeling that exists throughout the province with reference to the past acts of the Council. We regret to say that the members did not appear to be equal to the

occasion, as practically nothing was done in this direction, excepting the adoption of the following resolution:

"Moved by Dr. Bray, seconded by Dr. Ruttan, that a committee be appointed by the Council to meet a committee and such other members of the profession as may choose to attend from among the promoters and supporters of the bill introduced into the Ontario Legislature by Dr. Meacham for the purpose of discussing any differences of opinion due to the recent amendment to the Medical Act, with a view to the better understanding of the said amendment and the restoration of the feeling of harmony that had existed prior to the said legislation, and should continue to do so between the profession and their representatives in the Medical Council."

This is well enough so far as it goes, but it comes far short of what was expected. The desires and objects of the supporters of Dr. Meacham's proposed amendment to the Medical Act, which was introduced into the Ontario Legislature at its last session, are well known to the members of the Council; and yet they do not consider it worth their while to express an opinion on any one point raised.

We are entirely opposed to many features of Dr. Meacham's bill, but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that it contained certain clauses which are strongly supported by a large and powerful section of the profession in Ontario. We may go further, and say that the present constitution of the Council is not just and fair in the interests of the general profession. The numbers of "school men" are far in excess of what they should be when compared with the numbers of territorial representatives. This fact is simply incontrovertible, and well known to the Council; and yet its members had not backbone enough to take the question up, discuss it intelligently, and express an opinion on it. The Council may as well recognize the fact that the "Medical Defence Association," which includes a number of strong men, such as Drs. McLaughlin, Coburn, Sangster, Armour, Eastwood, and many others, are enthusiastic, united, and thoroughly in earnest. The do-nothing policy may stem the tide for a short time; but a more manly and dignified attitude is necessary to avoid defeat, if not disgrace, in the near future.