

# THE Canadian Practitioner

A SEMI-MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS  
OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

*Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest.*

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## INCREASE OF POPULATION IN NORTH AMERICA.

Recent statistics connected with census returns show certain facts which are creating considerable interest among our neighbors in the United States. The last census of the State of Massachusetts proves that the increase of population among the Americans proper is growing less from year to year. In this class more than 20 per cent. are childless, while among foreigners, now living in that country, only 13 per cent. are childless. In the former class, those who bear children generally have small families; in the latter, large families are the rule rather than the exception.

These facts are, of course, not new; they have been recognized for some time, but the evil—if evil it be—is growing. Some think that the boasted culture of the better classes is largely responsible for this condition of decreased fecundity. The educated women direct their energies in the direction of high educational attainments at the expense of their physical strength. A short time ago we referred to the address lately delivered at Albany by Dr. Potter, of Buffalo, which showed the great dangers of modern systems of educating young girls between the ages of fourteen and twenty. The inordinately high pressure put on girls in the various schools is undoubtedly bringing about a deterioration in the physical strength of a large number of such pupils. But fond parents are slow to perceive the evils of such pernicious methods, and physicians, in many cases, pay too little attention to the subject.

Political economists in the United States are

studying the census returns carefully with reference to the effects of these facts on the *great American people*. The question is asked—whither are we going? Will the Americans soon be crowded out of their own country by the rapidly increasing foreign element? Some think that New York may well be called "New Cork." *The Medical Mirror* asks: "What will the end be?" and adds—"Inviting, as we do, the off-scourings of all creation to come to our land of the free, ceasing to procreate ourselves, the query may well be presented, where will America be a few years from now? Serious questions present themselves, and the best thinkers of the country may well put on their thinking caps."

## THE INTER-CONTINENTAL AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

We have before referred to the proposed formation of an Inter-Continental American Medical Congress. At the last meeting of the American Medical Association, held at Washington in May, it was decided that such a congress should be permanently organized, and a committee was elected to complete the necessary arrangements. This committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles A. L. Reed, of Cincinnati, is now working actively, and desires the hearty co-operation of the profession in all parts of North and South America.

No decision has yet been reached as to the time and place of the meeting of the congress. It is proposed by some that it shall be held in Chicago in 1893, during the great "World's Fair." These matters will be decided, and the permanent officers elected at a meeting of the general committee, to be held at St. Louis, Mo., October 14, 1891. At the same time a constitution, which is now being drafted by the officers of the committee, will be submitted for adoption.

We must congratulate Dr. Reed and his committee upon the energy and vigor they have already shown in the work of organizing. We think the idea of holding such a congress is a happy one, and have no doubt that the undertaking will be a success in all respects. We understand that a cordial invitation will be extended to Canadian physicians to lend their assistance, and we hope it will receive a favorable and hearty response.