

by others cheaper but inferior. Such a course would be fatal to success. When, however, an asylum is maintained by Government there is no inducement to economise by providing inferior or insufficient attendance, while strict government inspection affords an additional guarantee that no such deterioration in service will be permitted. The success of an insane asylum depends largely upon two things—first, liberal pecuniary support, and, second, the free untrammelled action of a judicious medical superintendent. No matter how perfect all other arrangements may be, unless a thoroughly competent medical man is at the head of affairs, and unless he be protected from meddling dictation, the efficiency of an asylum will be surely impaired. The thorough equipping and successful running of a Protestant asylum would, we fear, be impossible at the present time. Besides the matter of expense, there are other and stronger objections to the proposed scheme. Why raise sectional distinctions in such an important matter? Even suppose the Protestant minority to be by this scheme comfortably provided for, what is to become of all the others? Are the Catholic majority to be left as they are? Are they not quite as much in need of judicious medical treatment as their Protestant brethren? Are our Protestant philanthropists to be content with rescuing only their own co-religionists from the results of ignorance and mismanagement? Is there any more reason why Protestants and Catholics suffering from brain-diseases should be separated from each other, than Protestants and Catholics suffering from other forms of disease? If difference in creed necessitates separation in the case of the insane, it should, with equal reason, necessitate separation in the medical and surgical wards of our general hospitals. Unfortunately, in the Province of Quebec, the dividing lines of creeds and nationalities are too strongly marked—we do not fuse—we do not co-operate—consequently all are weakened and general progress retarded. Can we not in this matter sink sectionalism and make a determined effort to place ourselves abreast of the times and wipe off the disgrace which at present attaches to us? It has been suggested that Dr. Workman of Toronto and Dr. Bucke of London be consulted respecting the choice of a suitable site for a Protestant asylum. Why not go further? Petition the Government to appoint a commission of the leading alienists of Canada to investigate the working of the Lunacy Regulations in this Pro-

vince and report such amendments and alterations as they deem advisable. Such a commission should at least include the names of Dr. Workman and Dr. Clarke of Toronto, Dr. Henry Howard of Montreal, Dr. Bucke of London, and Dr. Vallée of Quebec.

CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The next annual meeting of this association takes place in Montreal on the 25th of August, and promises to be the largest and most successful gathering of its members since its formation. As the meeting of the British Association will take place immediately afterwards, and as many of the members of the latter are distinguished medical men from England, it is expected that these visitors will also be present and take part in the discussions. It is also the intention of the profession in Montreal to give a dinner to which all medical visitors, both English and Canadian, will be invited. Delegates from sister associations in the States are also expected, so that a brilliant gathering may be expected. In the absence of the general secretary, Dr. Osler, the functions of the office are performed by Dr. James Bell, of this city, who will supply all information and give certificates of membership to any who may wish to take advantage of the reduced travelling rates allowed to its members. A large number of papers are promised, and the lists will no doubt be extended beyond those already known.

WHERE IS IT?

We notice an advertisement in the New York Medical Record, announcing a medical agency said to be in existence in this city and conducted by Dr. W. H. Mercy. As we are in ignorance of the whereabouts of this establishment and of the professional gentleman named, it may be inferred that the usefulness of the agency cannot be very extensive. Correspondents are requested to send particulars, *with stamp enclosed*. Further remark is unnecessary.

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