

humane object: the dissemination to all of the knowledge of public hygiene and the development of respect for its decrees.

It is, therefore, fellow-members of the Association, with the greatest pleasure—after having taken part in our former meetings in the principal cities of the United States and Mexico, reaped precious knowledge and borne away happy remembrances—that I see us all to-day congregated in this city, the commercial metropolis of our Canada. I know we shall be pleased to again find ourselves united, not only to strengthen the bonds of friendship formed in preceding meetings, but also to communicate to one another the fruits of recently acquired experience and knowledge, each contributing his mite to help the progress of hygiene among our people and so continue the good work of the Association.

Every year the Association changes its places of meeting, and this for good reasons. The spirit of its founders being to establish, above all, a body for the diffusion and popularization of public sanitary science, this object could not be better attained than by extending to its greatest limits the influence of the Association; and for this purpose no surer means could be found than this bringing together of its distinguished members in different distant cities. There they are allowed to see and judge for themselves of the wants and progress of the different parts of the continent; their experience is enriched, they compare observations and suggest new ideas. Again, by adopting this method of meeting, the same members are not continually called upon to displace themselves, which would often entail considerable sacrifices.

On the one hand, not only do the members themselves derive considerable profit from such changes, but, on the other hand, and above all, those congresses in various parts of the continent immensely facilitate the propagation of our science to the public, by awakening, as they do, general interest wherever they are held; they help to dissipate erroneous ideas and prejudice by giving publicity to the unbiased opinions of a large number of enlightened and disinterested men on local questions; they are of great assistance to governments by having those import-