

in 1872. At that time the Association was in rather a precarious condition financially, owing to its deficient organization; but shortly after Mr. Fowke took up the reins of office, matters were found to improve. About the time he was appointed the subscriptions amounted to £4,677. Ten years later they had nearly doubled, the amount being £9,147; and in 1891 they had reached the very respectable sum of £14,759. It is interesting to note how closely the advertisements in the *Journal* kept pace with the increase in membership. In 1871 the amount received for advertisements was £1,992; in 1881, £6,089; and in 1891, £14,568. The head office, which had been in Birmingham, was moved to London in 1872, where, after two removals, the present commodious premises in the Strand were taken. In 1879 the Association began the printing as well as the publishing of its *Journal*. The library, which now contains 10,000 volumes, and which includes nearly every modern medical work of note, and many valuable books of reference, has developed in that time. That the British Medical Association is the largest and most influential guild in the world cannot be questioned. Moreover the good it accomplishes increases from year to year, and more than keeps pace with the expansion of the Association. Imagine the mighty power of the collective action of 17,000 earnest men pitted against false dogmas and ever battling for the truth! It is not, however, by greatness of numbers that the Association will be judged—it is by the diversity and quality of results. It is impossible to imagine any combination of circumstances which would render this great Association any less necessary or useful than it is to-day. It will undoubtedly continue to grow in numbers, to increase in importance, and to be ever more and more an influence making for the amelioration and elevation of mankind.

The Canadian people, and especially the citizens of Montreal, are highly flattered and gratified that Canada should be the first country without the United Kingdom to be honored by a meeting of the British Medical Association; and while they hope that it will not be long before the honor is repeated, our people are not insensible to the claims of other portions of the Empire, more especially the great island continent of the Antipodes, Australia. Either Sydney or Melbourne would be a fit meeting place for such an imperial organization as this; and should the next meeting which is held outside the British Isles be held under the Southern Cross, our hospitable Australian kinsmen may count on a large contingent from the Dominion of Canada.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

As it may be presumed that to the majority of those present here to-day Canada is almost an unknown country, I have thought that among one or two other subjects a few remarks on the atmospheric conditions and health resorts of the Dominion would not be without interest.

The best way to understand the atmospheric conditions of a country is first to understand its physical features. The physical features of Canada are very remarkable. Broadly speaking, the country is separable by climatic and physical conditions into three great regions, the Eastern, Central and Western Regions, which approximately run north and south in the general trend of the con-