

## THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

In another column will be found Dr. Botsford's address at the opening of the eighth annual session of the above-named Association which for this year met in the city of Halifax, N.S. In the course of that address the worthy President drew attention to the subject of Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, stating that in some of the Provinces of the Dominion the custom of registering these events does not exist. We question if there does exist in any of the Provinces a system of registration which can be regarded as reliable.

In Ontario, we believe, that some two or more years since, a registration act was introduced into the local house and became law, but the mischief of the thing is in leaving these matters to the local legislatures of each Province to act upon. The Province of Ontario finding that vital statistics were not attainable in the absence of a registration act, and recognizing the many difficulties of obtaining such an act from the General Government, decided on introducing and pressing such an act through the local house. Ontario has set us an example of progress for which she deserves a full meed of praise, and we trust that this action of our sister Province will be followed by the other Provinces.

In this Province we are badly off if this matter is left to the local authorities, as the powerful influence of the Roman Catholic Church will be brought to bear to crush out any contemplated move in the right direction. We were highly gratified to observe the reference made to this important subject by the President in his address, and still more so to notice that at his suggestion a committee of associates was named for the purpose of memorializing the general government on the subject of a comprehensive act of registration of births, marriages and deaths for the whole Dominion, and he expresses a hope that this movement on the part of the Canadian Medical Association will hasten that most to be desired action of the Dominion Legislature."