

realize the extreme difficulty, often amounting to impossibility, of securing papers from members in country districts.

Whilst we have endeavored to provide a varied and interesting clinical programme, we have not been unmindful of the social side, and I therefore hope you will find the meeting both instructive and enjoyable.

I should like to take this opportunity of referring to the great loss which the profession in the Province of Ontario has sustained in the untimely and tragic death of a former President of this Association, the late Dr. James F. W. Ross. He always took the keenest interest in the affairs of this Association, and was present at our last meeting at Niagara Falls. He could always be relied upon to do his utmost to further the interests of his beloved profession, and it is scarcely necessary for me to say that the profession, as a whole, and this Association in particular, has lost a very staunch friend, and one whose place it will be difficult or impossible to fill.

I should like also to refer to the loss which the profession throughout Canada has sustained in the death of Dr. James Bell, of Montreal. He was one of our truly great men, and has done a great deal to elevate the standing of the Canadian medical profession.

As each year of my professional life passes, my conviction becomes stronger that an organization of some kind to bind the profession together is an absolute necessity, and that for this purpose we could have nothing better than our Ontario Medical Association, which is a potent influence for the good of the profession and the public.

When it was first suggested that this Association should become a branch of the Dominion Medical Association, many of us feared that in this way we might lose our identity. As the scheme has eventually materialized, however, I think it is a distinct advantage to the Ontario Medical Association. Whilst we have retained our autonomy, and are thriving and prosperous, we are at the same time—I think I may say without boasting—the most important branch of the Dominion Association, and can feel that our interest is not merely provincial, but that we have a larger and wider outlook through our connection with the National Association.

I think it very desirable that there should be an increase in the number of small County Medical Societies, and I should like to suggest that for this purpose the Province be divided into ten districts, corresponding to the ten health districts recently established by the provisions of the new Health Bill. As there are forty-seven counties in the Province, this would mean that each society would include four or five counties, which appears to me to be a practical arrangement. Then the method of securing membership in the Ontario Medical Association