

system which this Association decided at its early meetings to endeavor earnestly to obtain. It is, indeed, active members of this Association who have been largely instrumental in educating public opinion on the subject, and in pushing forward such measures of reform as have been reached ; and it is to be hoped that the same members, with many others to assist them, will continue their laudable efforts until much better results are obtained.

The Association adopted a Code of Ethics, and a very good code it is. There is only one point to which I would allude in connection with the attitude of medical men towards each other, and that is with reference to cases of alleged malpractice. Nothing is more injurious to the best interests of the profession than the wretched lawsuits of this kind which are so lamentably common in certain sections of this country—only in certain sections, for I am happy to say that elsewhere they are of very occurrence, and in some favored localities are practically unknown. There can be only one explanation of this striking difference, viz., that such contentions are originated and fomented by unworthy physicians who adopt this means of harassing and and injuring a competitor. Everyone knows that, if medical men were true to each other, these unhappy disputes would hardly ever be begun—that, if rancor and ill-feeling were jealously guarded against and only fair and reasonable opinions expressed, we should not be called upon to witness those painful exhibitions of a house divided against itself. This is a sore blot upon the boasted claims of the medical profession to engender feelings of mutual charity and goodwill. The main remedy for this consists in the cultivation of the true scientific spirit, in keeping up connections with our medical societies, in indulging our natural social tendencies and preserving that natural pride which produces the desire to stand well with our fellows, especially those whose good opinion is worth having. I am sure it is the earnest wish of every member here present that the scandal of these malpractice suits may yearly become fewer in this Canada of ours, to the great advantage of the whole profession.