

THE CANADA LANCET.

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Criticism and News.**

Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Address, DR. J. L. DAVISON, 12 Charles St., Toronto.

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MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

It may not be inopportune to remind our readers of the good work done in medical societies. Everyone is aware of the almost irresistible tendency to get into grooves, and, in daily practice to adopt too much routine. With many practitioners their treatment of to-day is precisely what it was ten or twenty years ago, their knowledge has concentrated itself into a few "practical details" whilst from a scientific standpoint they are wonderfully behind the times. This state of things may result from many conditions. The demands which press so constantly upon the medical practitioner generally, the ill luck which has given him a troublesome case just at the time he has arranged to attend the society's meeting, or the desire, which we believe prompts but the few, of being careful to "look after practice" which is attended by more successes in his neighbors absence, are some of the predisposing causes. Although the results of the progress in medicine have not been all that carping critics demand of it, yet its yield has been well worth the time and labor spent in obtaining it, and no one with any claim to being well informed can do without adopting some of the more modern principles and suggestions; and the difficulty which every one experiences in determining what is reliable and what is useless will be materially lessened after the ventilation and discussion such subjects receive at an ordinary meeting of medical men. It is no excuse that because a previous meeting happened to be in a measure un-

profitable, subsequent ones should not be attended. It is a duty which everyone owes to his profession and the public to attend and support such meetings and associations, since by them alone can medicine make great and useful advancement. By the united evidence there given, can those careful and constant workers in science receive that encouragement and acknowledgement which they deserve. And apart from the scientific and special uses of the medical associations in the daily practice of a physician, it is in, and by such associations, are cultivated and developed those nobler traits of character and that kindness of heart with which the members of the medical profession are so replete. Often at such meetings have differences been removed and old friendships revived which form the pleasantest reminiscences of a whole life. It is but a poor man who can attend such gatherings and go away unprofited. If a meeting happens to be less instructive than one expected; if in results it did not suit you, carefully enquire the reason. Did you do the part specially allotted you. It is unfair to throw the whole brunt of the work upon two or three prominent officials. It is manifestly unfair to hold the president of an association accountable for the only partial success of such meeting, when members in committee have given but indifferent support and imagined their names appeared in such places merely out of compliment and attached no work or responsibility. Each has his duty to perform, if he cannot entertain by reading a paper, he can encourage by careful attention, assist by careful discussion, and thus add directly to the success of the meeting. The programme is generally arranged to allow ample time for pleasure as well as business, and should be carefully followed. If all the members were away sight-seeing and on pleasure excursions there could be nothing done.

We sincerely hope these few remarks will be remembered and be in time to benefit the meeting of the Canada Medical Association to be held in Ottawa on September 12th, 13th and 14th next, and that members of the profession will feel it their duty to attend. It is said the public do not sufficiently recognize the work done by the profession. The fault lies with ourselves. Our voice, when raised, is often enfeebled from lack of interest and enthusiasm, and our influence undervalued because it is not concentrated.