

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The thirty-third annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association was held in Ottawa on Sept. 12th, 13th and 14th, with about one hundred and seventy-five members in attendance. The profession of the Capital spared nothing in preparing for the reception of visiting members, whom they entertained royally. The complimentary dinner at the Russel House, given by the local profession, was a very enjoyable social feature of the meeting. The attendance at the various sessions of the association was fairly good, many of the papers under discussion being of more than ordinary interest.

To Dr. H. H. Chown, of Winnipeg, has fallen the honor of the presidency of the association for the ensuing year. Dr. Chown is well fitted for the duties of presiding officer and his election met with the general approval of the meeting. He should receive the united and hearty support of the profession in eastern Canada in making the coming meeting in Winnipeg worthy of the prairie metropolis.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sterilization of Catgut.

G. Brown Miller (Johns Hopkins Bulletin) considers that catgut is the cheapest and best absorbable material for sutures and ligatures. The only drawback is the difficulty of thorough sterilization. From a bacteriological examination of the materials prepared by various methods that have been recommended, he concludes that chemical agents must be considered unsatisfactory for this purpose. He found the Cumol method to produce absolutely sterile material and therefore was the one worthy of confidence. The details for preparation by this means, as carried out in the John Hopkin's Hospital, he gives as follows:—

“Cut the catgut into desirable lengths, 35-40 cm., wind it into small coils or rolls each containing eight to ten strands (It should not be tied or only loosely). It is then heated slowly (at least two hours) to 85° C. in a dry air sterilizer and kept at this temperature approximately for two hours. After thoroughly drying it is placed immediately in a metal vessel containing Cumol (which should cover the catgut), and this is heated over a sand bath to 160-165° C. and kept at this temperature for one hour. The Cumol is then decanted and the excess left in the catgut is evaporated by leaving the vessel over the sand bath for one hour longer, the flame having been removed. The rolls of catgut are then placed in