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by the reading, discussion and subsequent publication of various memoirs or papers, and (2) by memorials presented to the Government of the province, or provinces, in support of various public institutions of a scientific character.

I.-PAPERS.

In the very first volume of the Canadian Journal will be found a series of able articles, copiously illustrated, on that most practical of subjects, the harbour of Toronto, by Mr. Sandford Fleming, Mr. Kivas Tully, and others. In the same volume is a paper on Toronto's water supply, a subject which has constantly engaged the attention of the Institute, and still continues to do so. Certainly no subject is of more direct importance to our fellow-citizens than this, and I am persuaded that the publication in the daily press of papers read before this Institute from time to time on this subject has been of great advantage to the civic authorities in deciding upon this vexed question, as well as on that of the disposal of our sewage. I believe that even more can and will be done in this direction, to the great benefit of the public. Continuing the examination of our past work, I find in Vol. I. again Mr. Kivas Tully suggesting plans for the improvement of our Esplanade, and Prof. Cherriman advocating, as early as 1853, the adoption of the decimal currency; in Vol. 1I. there appears the first geological map of Upper Canada, by Mr. (afterwards Sir) Wm. Logan, our first president; and Dr. Cottle gives an account of Canadian silk-producing moths-a subject to which the present chairman of our Biological Section, Dr. Brodie, has devoted further unwearied and valuable investigation.

In the third volume, 1855, I again find a practical paper by Dr. Bovell on the best modes of dealing with the terrible scourge of cholera, the first of a series of communications on public health which have been presented to the Institute from time to time, concluding, for the present, with the contributions of Drs. Oldright, Bryce, and Ellis. In the year 1870 a member of this Institute, Mr. Andrew Elvins, anticipated by at least two years the labours of other astronomers and meteorologists in investigating the connection of sunspots with rainfalls, as well as with other meteorological elements, and the result of his investigations seemed to hold forth some prospect of establishing such a connection between these natural phenomena as should ultimately enable the meteorologist to predict

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