

Meetings of Medical Societies.

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

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AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Dr. Campbell stated that he had a resolution to propose, and in introducing it referred in eloquent terms to the fact that no gentleman of their profession wished to profit by the afflictions of others. Their object was two-fold, viz., the prevention as well as the cure of disease, and the former was of as much importance to the public as the latter. If the school teachers would impart instruction in hygiene and the laws of health these laws would become better known, and the result be a decrease in the death rate. Some years ago, in speaking before the North Huron Teachers' Association, he had stated it as his opinion that there were too many "ologies," and he believed so still. There are many diseases that can be prevented far more readily than cured, and one of these is phthisis. The proper ventilation of schools, especially in the rural districts, is greatly neglected, and thus the seeds of consumption are sown. He expressed it as his opinion that if a little book on the subject of hygiene were introduced into our schools a great improvement in the general health of the community would be the ultimate result, and if drainage were better understood, cases of typhoid would be less frequent, and this subject could be incorporated in the text-book he had just mentioned. He then read the following resolution, moved by Dr. Campbell, seconded by Dr. Worthington, "That in view of the very widespread ignorance among the masses of the people of the simple laws of health, and of the sickness which frequently arises from this ignorance, this association is unanimously of opinion that if the subject of hygiene with some of the essential elements of physiology were substituted in the Public Schools for one or more of the much less essential subjects now commonly taught, and were made compulsory and taught in the Public Schools throughout this province, so soon as pupils arrived at an age at which they could comprehend the same, it would tend in no small

degree to prevent sickness, and to promote the wellbeing of the people of this province; and that the following be a special committee to urge upon the Minister of Education the desirability of an early change being made in the schools in this behalf." The names of the gentlemen forming the committee to be Drs. G. Wright, J. Fulton, Canniff, the mover and seconder.

In rising to second the resolution, Dr. Worthington said it was now some years since any book on hygiene had been taught in our schools, and agreed with the mover that if this subject were taught in our schools, the ultimate result would be a marked improvement in the general health. He had great pleasure in seconding the motion.

Dr. Bowlby, of Berlin, said that teachers, unless educated to it, could not give the necessary instruction.

Dr. Curry thought there were too many subjects for study in schools. They had too much overwork, and this was as bad as too little ventilation. He knew several cases where health had been injured by overtaxing the intellect, and thought that the Association should give this subject their attention. It would be better for the children, their parents, and every one else.

Dr. Oldright said that in some schools they had shortened the hours, but cut out the recess in the morning, and if there was anything that assisted the children it was that morning recess. He thought the trouble was not so much in sending children to school when, as some imagined, they were too young, but in giving them too much to do when they got there. The only idea some teachers seemed to have on the subject of ventilation was that when a school-room became too warm all they had to do was to throw open the doors and windows, and this in winter time was anything but pleasant for the scholars.

Dr. McDonald and others also endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers.

The President before putting the resolution made some remarks of an interesting character. Last year he read three papers on the subject of brain overwork, and expects to read another before the Teachers' Association before long.