

the subject in each Province of the Dominion, and separately and gradually lead them up to the highest standard required.

Thus only can we hope to succeed in Dominion legislation. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that, when this matter comes up, some member will move that its consideration be indefinitely postponed, and thus put an end to a fertile source of discord. Let us carefully avoid all medical legislative action for the present, for to my mind no greater blunder could be committed in this democratic age, than seeking medical legislation, as the sympathies of legislators generally, and especially the unscientific who compose the majority, are in favor of quackery and free trade in medicine. Another subject, gentlemen, to which I would call the attention of this meeting is the great loss that the Association has sustained by the non-publication of the Minutes of its proceedings for the past two years. Whether the Association has the means to publish the Transactions, Reports, Proceedings and other papers or not, the Minutes of our proceedings, at least in my opinion ought to be in the hands of every member of this body. I trust we shall this day repair our error, and make any necessary sacrifice to publish them. The valuable unpublished papers which have been presented, read, and approved by this Association, and which must have cost their authors much study valuable time and trouble, remain a dead letter,—a dumb record—a sealed book to the whole medical and scientific world. For this seeming neglect I know not whether the accomplished and industrious writers, or the reading members of the profession at large have most reason to complain. Although this Association was organized for the protection of the interests of the medical profession, and the maintenance of its honor and respectability, it also contemplated the advancement of its knowledge, and the extension of its usefulness; and shall it be said of us, that we have done nothing to promote these high and laudable objects because our transactions embrace none of the essays and papers which for originality, learning and profound research would be worthy of honorable place in any similar volume? Let us, gentlemen, this day, I repeat, wipe out this reproach, and either publish them, or return them to their respective authors, for such action as they may see fit to adopt, for nothing should be kept back or hidden

in this progressive age. Progressive age did I say? Yes, progressive! And it would be very easy did time permit me, to show the wonderful strides that medical art has made even in our own days. It has been raised from the level of a mere conjectural science to the status of a positive art. Mental agony and physical torture have now succumbed to bloodless and painless operations. Operations which formerly no amount of moral or physical courage could have induced the sufferer to submit to, are now endured with complacency.

Chemistry is a new science.

Were it possible to weld the link in the mortal chain which was so suddenly snapped asunder on the morning of the 29th of May, 1829, at Geneva, in Switzerland,—or to revive the mortal spark in the poor boy of Penzance, Cornwall, who was a popular lecturer on Chemistry to the Royal Institution, London, at 22 years of age,—or to bring before this meeting him, who for seven successive years was the unopposed President of the Royal Society of London, Sir Humphrey Davy, he, like Rip Van Winkle, would find all the ancient landmarks swept away by the progress of that science, which his genius had done so much to fructify and embellish. He would be a student still, gentlemen, as we all ought always to be.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary strides that have been made of late years in the medical and surgical arts and sciences, and the accessory branches of knowledge, and although the rewards are by no means equal to the responsibilities of the medical practitioner, nevertheless his sterling worth is not unfrequently recognized and requited.

Mr. Gladstone, at the dinner of the British Medical Association last year, paid a just tribute to our art, and said that but for the care and watchfulness of a succession of able physicians it would have been impossible for him to have gone through the fatigues of public life. It is, said he, among the wonderful and noble distinctions of your illustrious profession that, although its members may not receive that acknowledgment which awaits the soldier when he falls on the battle-field, yet they are to be found in countless numbers among the truest martyrs in the cause of humanity. He further said, truly, that medical knowledge has advanced in recent years in a degree which is not, perhaps, paralleled in any other profession. There is at present a greater and more sustained earnest-