

nesota, President of the American Public Health Association and Secretary of the State Board. Dr. Hewitt expressed great pleasure at being present at a Canadian Health Association, and trusted to assimilate and carry home new ideas regarding methods, with the view of still further aiding the progress of work in his own State and country.

The regular programme was then proceeded with. Dr. Covernton presented his paper on a "Brief Retrospect of the Progress of Medicine, Curative and Preventive, 1828-1888, or the Review of a Lifetime." Dr. J. D. Macdonald, a member of Provincial Board of Health, followed the reading of Dr. Covernton's paper, and pleasantly recalled the times so eloquently referred to by Dr. Covernton, referring especially to the present high status of the profession, as also to the greatly superior advantages of the young medical students and practitioners of to-day. Dr. Macdonald referred to the unnaturalness of any member of the profession in not wanting to prevent disease. To prevent has always, as a general rule, been characteristic of the profession.

Dr. H. P. Yeomans, member Provincial Board of Health, in the absence of Dr. Griffin, next on programme, presented his paper on the "Sanitary Supervision of Schools."

Dr. Burrows introduced the discussion on the paper and remarking concerning the unsanitary condition of many of our public schools, stated that in his opinion it was time that a medical inspector of schools be appointed.

Dr. Vaux, Medical Health Officer, Brockville, followed, remarking on the difficulty which would exist in grading children in their seating in schools in order to have the sanitary seating of them carried out properly.

Dr. Hewitt, Minnesota, then following, stated that some difficulty regarding the sanitary supervision of schools exists there. Theoretically our medical and sanitary views may be correct, but when we are asked to adapt them to the school system, it is going too far. The machine must not be disturbed. But the radical wrong in the machine must in all seriousness be removed first; and here the first, middle, and last difficulty is met. After all, however, schools exist only for one end, *sana mens in corpore sano*; and if they do not fulfil this end, schools are in whole, or in part, failures.

Dr. Covernton, Toronto, continued the discussion, and referred to the difficulties even in England, of getting out of the rut in which the school machine has fallen, and referred to the good results which it may be hoped will grow out of Mr. Ritchie's Local Government Bill now before the English House of Commons.

H. Knight, Esq., Public School Inspector for East Victoria, then followed, referring to the many good

points in Dr. Yeoman's paper, and to the improvements which really have taken place during the years he has held his present position. It is, however, hardly fair to expect trustees to throw out desks supposedly good four or five years ago for others just discovered good. Ventilation and heating are much greater difficulties in connection with this question. Till trustees see that the health of the pupils is more to be considered than the expenditure of a few dollars, results will be imperfect. There is a real difficulty in obtaining a good water supply for the schools.

Dr. J. B. Lundy, Medical Health Officer, Preston, referred to the immense importance of this subject, than which nothing on the programme is more pressing. The reader of the paper had referred to the advantages of the Smead-Dowd system, but its expense makes it inapplicable to many of our country schools, at least, so the trustees might think. The jacketed stove has in some cases served a purpose, but in the withdrawal of pure air he had found difficulties. The doctor referred to the practical difficulties he has found in connection with defects of eye-sight.

Dr. Hewitt, referring again to this matter, explained how he has managed many of the practical difficulties. Especially is it desirable to have floors oiled inasmuch as it prevents the accumulation of dust. He further referred to the great dangers as well as difficulties which arise in connection with the isolation of infectious diseases, and indicated some of the practical methods of dealing with it.

Dr. J. Coventry, Windsor, said that the difficulty in most cases lies primarily in connection with the teacher. If the teacher does not have a high domestic ideal of hygiene they will not have it at school. In few cases, indeed, has he found even one, not to mention several thermometers, in a school-room. But a teacher must be supported. She must have the practical aid of a janitor. He may not need to be there all the time, but he is needed there at least in morning, noon, and after school. The heating difficulty may be in part got over by the adoption of the Jackson grate, much more effective and economical than the ordinary grate.

Col. Deacon said that the question arises, judging from the discussion, to ask, "Is our civilization a failure?" He moved the adjournment of the discussion and of the meeting.

SECOND SESSION MET AT 7.30 P.M.

Rev. Mr. Anderson opened the meeting with prayer after which Dr. Bryce read the paper by D. B. Dick, Esq., Architect, Toronto, on "Points to be observed in Constructing a Healthy House." Discussion thereon was, on motion, deferred, after which Dr. P. P. Burrows, President, read his annual address (see elsewhere), after which Dr. Chas. N. Hewitt, Secretary State Board of Health, Minnesota, and President of Ameri-