

able medical men in our Legislative Assembly, is conclusive proof that the people of this country are not backward to recognize true merit, though it may not obtrude itself by noisy demonstrations on their notice at every turn. It is no vain boast to claim that the healing art has in all ages, embraced within its circle, men of culture and of thought, and that science, in the broadest sense, has been much enriched by the research and learning of the medical profession. The close of the last century and the beginning of the present produced discoverers in the domain of medical science who may fairly take rank with Newton or Columbus, and the profession now, claims among its votaries, men of whom the world may well be proud. It is true that the seeming diversity in the medical theories of the day, has given rise in the public mind to the idea of a diversity of schools, and we have, in medicine, numerous offshoots and excrescences from the parent stock, just as we have in religion diversity of creed. Probably, however, in regard to both cases, these diversities arise from superficial examination of the subjects, and inaptitude or inability to grasp and apprehend the truth. For, doubtless, in each, there is but one legitimate school, and that one must be founded on truth, which is immutable.

It is impossible, then, to over estimate the value of establishing such a medical association as I have indicated. The leading medical men of each district would be brought frequently together, for the reading of papers, and the discussion of subjects of interest to the profession. Such meetings, while they would disseminate a vast amount of useful information, and give the profession the valuable experience, gathered year by year, by practical observation, in regard to the character and treatment of prevailing diseases, would, at the same time serve as a most wholesome and needed incentive to studious systematical reading. It has been, probably, too much the habit of the profession, in this country, to consider the goal as having been reached when their "license to practice" was secured. Human nature is the same in medical men as in other mortals, and it seems to be the tendency of human nature to fold hands and indulge in relaxation, whenever the spur of emulation or self interest is laid aside. The field is as open to original observers in the wide Dominion of Canada, as in any other part of the world, and these associations would form most valuable and influential media by which the professional world might be reached. And who can tell but the absence of such societies may have already condemned many a medical flower, "to blush unseen, and waste *his* sweetness on the desert air." At all events the establishment of such influential societies would place more surely within the reach of the studious physician, the reward always due to ability and earning.