

been done in the way of Legislation in this matter.

Another Committee on Statistics and Hygiene was named at the Annual Meeting of 1873, held at St. John, N. B., of which Dr. Botsford, one of our intellectual, indefatigable and zealous Ex-Vice-Presidents is Chairman. He wrote to me on this subject in March last as follows: "I was named as one to bring the matter of Hygiene before the Dominion Legislature, especially looking to a registration of deaths and the causes, over the whole Dominion.—For the province of New Brunswick I have to report that, whilst Boards of Health are provided for every county, and a registration of marriages for the Province, this is all that has been accomplished; and a registration of deaths, and the causes, does not exist!"

Although, Gentlemen, I quite concur in the sentiments expressed by Dr. Workman in his address of welcome at our second Anniversary Meeting, that "neither the elevation, nor what is styled the protection of our Profession is to be achieved by acts of Parliament,—and, that if we would be elevated, we must climb the steep ascent ourselves," yet there are certain subjects that demand legislation before we can make any useful application of them. Among these, I class Vital Statistics, Registration, and one uniform system of preliminary and professional education, examination and licensing. Committees have reported on all these subjects, and their reports have been adopted, and, as Dr. Tupper said in his address at Ottawa in 1870, "a far higher step has been taken by resolving that it was for the interest of the public and the Profession, that one common portal of entrance should be established for the purpose of granting licences to practice."

Precisely the same opinions have frequently found utterance in the meetings of our elder sister, the American Medical Association, as will be seen by a reference to their transactions, from which, had time permitted, I might profitably have made some extracts. This is a subject that has occupied the best attention of various Committees since the formation of this Association, and resulted in the forming of the "Contemplated Medical Act for the Dominion of Canada," which was amended at the third Annual Meeting of the Association, held at Ottawa in September, 1870. It was again amended at the Annual Meeting held at Quebec, in Sept., 1871, and finally was referred to the Annual Meeting held in Montreal in 1872, each and every member of the Association having received in the meantime a printed copy of the same. This proposed Act has been a bone of contention, an apple of discord, to the Association ever

since it was first introduced. In the western province of the Dominion, Gentlemen, you have an Act based upon the English Medical Act, which is working most satisfactorily. The Province of Quebec, also, has an Act that needs very little amendment. The Eastern Provinces, however, of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which are younger in Medical Science and Literature, and have hitherto been almost without medical schools, are not so far advanced in the medical sciences as the older Provinces of the Dominion, and are not ready to enter in the same platform as their older brethren, and, therefore, at the Annual Meeting, held in 1872, it was resolved unanimously, to postpone the further consideration of the proposed Bill for two years. Thus it has been suspended like Mahomet's coffin, between heaven and earth, for two years past, and will possibly come up for action at this Meeting. Doubts have been expressed by lawyers, as well as legislators (and by no less an authority than Dr. Tupper) of the legislative powers of the Parliament of the Dominion to pass any Medical Act for the whole Dominion, unless or until previous concerted action has been taken by the Local Legislatures; and to this opinion I strongly incline. In the American Medical Association progress is being steadily made in that direction by state legislation, and I think the best thing we can do is to agitate 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