

vitality of the Association. We have had many papers of more than usual interest and value; among them I might mention Dr. Stewart's paper on *Epilepsy*, Dr. Ruttan's paper on a *New Method for Estimating Acetone in Urine*, Dr. Blackader's on *Infants' Foods*, Dr. Johnston's on *Bacteriological Examination in Cases of Diphtheria*, Dr. G. T. Ross's on *The Study of Koch's Treatment of Tuberculosis in Berlin*, and other papers of interest were contributed by Drs. Armstrong, Lockhart, Buller, McConnell, Mill's, Geo. Brown, James Bell, Lapthorn Smith and McKechnie.

The average attendance was large (28.2), and at some meetings over forty were present. This shows that the interest in the Society is increasing, and that the profession in general are becoming aware of the educational and other advantages derived from regular attendance at the meetings. The attendance of the younger members has of late been very large, and I hope that every year will see an increase in their numbers, and especially of those who contribute to the proceedings. All that is needed is to begin, for it is the first step that costs. Every man who sees cases and observes them must have something to tell, and he also must occasionally see some cases that puzzle him and on which more light needs to be thrown. What better method is there than bringing such before this Society, keeping in mind the old proverb that "in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom."

The debates on papers read have often been very poor and barren, and it would be well if the Society could improve itself in this respect. If the members would read up the subject of the paper before coming to the meeting they might often get up interesting debates; indeed many who would have much to say in private about the paper become shy and dumb in public. The only thing is to always endeavor to say something about the paper, if it is in your line of work, and say what you have to say shortly and clearly; but you should know what you want to say before getting up, and should not improvise as you go along. You will say, however, that the object of the President's address is not to give unasked for advice, so I shall stop before I have gone too far and proceed to discuss matters less personal.

The past year has been an eventful one to medical science in general, because it will always be associated with the name of Koch and his discovery of a remedy which he called tuberculin, and which he hoped would solve the problem of the cure of tuberculosis. The discovery of no other remedy ever raised such high hopes which were condemned to be so bitterly disappointed. The general public went mad on the subject, and they were aided by members of the profession. It is not a year since this potent remedy was made known, prematurely, it is said, and against the wish of its great discoverer. The world was soon startled with accounts of its marvellous properties, which read like a fairy tale. These accounts, however, were too good to be true. They were received with suspicion by the more cautious and thoughtful members of the profession, but the majority read and believed. Well, like other remedies, tuberculin has had its rise, decline and fall, the only difference being that it rose higher and had to fall further. The history of this remedy is familiar to you all, how the lay press was full of its marvellous performances, how those sick unto death were made well, and how it was confidently hoped that now one of the greatest scourges of the human race was laid low, that other discoveries would follow, and if perpetual youth could not be

bestowed upon us, yet almost perpetual life would be our portion. The medical press, though not so extravagant in its promises, still felt the surrounding elation. The whole world became excited, and towards Berlin commenced a pilgrimage greater, perhaps, than ever took place in Mecca, and with much less satisfactory results. Many universities and societies sent ambassadors, or perhaps I should call them disciples, to learn wisdom at the feet of the great Bacteriologist. Others waited for more light; they were the wiser, for in nearly every case the pilgrimage gave no results and no good purpose was accomplished. This good city of Montreal was also stricken with the madness, though only to a slight degree, and although no members of our Society were sent as ambassadors, still two of our more enterprising confreres went out to see the "reed shaken by the wind," on their own responsibility. When they returned, they gave us graphic and interesting papers concerning what they had seen abroad. In the meantime some of the wonderful fluid had been procured here, and was made use of in the hospitals, but no such results as we had read of were ever seen, in fact the remedy did much more harm than good, and soon it ceased to be employed. The stage of disenchantment and even vituperation has now come, and the great name of Koch has gained no fresh laurels as yet from his discovery of tuberculin. Some of the more sanguine minds hope with Lauder Brunton that "Koch's tuberculin may yet fulfil the hopes of its able and single-minded originator." It is possible that, deprived of its dangerous elements, it may yet be of service in the treatment of tuberculosis. At any rate, a new line of research has been opened up, and discoveries of great importance may yet await the patient investigator of infective diseases and their germs.

Gentlemen, when I commenced this address I had no intention of saying so much, but, like all poor sermons, length is a distinguished feature, and it is much harder to be terse than discursive. Before I close I should like to express my appreciation of the services of one to whom we are all indebted for the great success of last year's work. I allude to our late secretary, Dr. McCarthy. Without him I should have been like a ship without a rudder. His foresight, discretion and diligence have made the position of President a comparatively easy one, and his published reports are a credit, not only to himself, but to the Society.

Gentlemen, again I thank you all for the kind manner you have borne with me, and I shall gladly retire into the back benches once more, from the obscurity of which, perhaps, it were wiser that I had never emerged.

Progress of Science.

MEDICAL MISCARRIAGES.

(From the annual address of the President of the American Academy of Medicine, T. KOPPELUS PARVIN, M.D., LL.D., delivered at the Sixteenth Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., May 23 to 26, 1891.)

The accidents referred to will be considered in reference to the publication of medical books and of medical journals, the work of medical societies and medical colleges and of medicine itself. Abortion or miscarriage, using the words