

and admit them if proven, for if dogmatic argument is persisted in, one object of this meeting will be frustrated. The mind, like the body, should be capable of adaptation or accommodation, yielding with pliancy to the varying conditions in which it may be placed.

We may believe that in scientific research, as under other conditions, wherever work has to be accomplished there will be found men with minds capable of undertaking it. Work undertaken and carried out by independent minds will in all likelihood vary in results. These, if persisted in, will lead to disagreement and discord. How necessary, then, for such assemblies as these, at which workers can compare notes and criticise one another's work with a view of arriving at something like consent and agreement of purpose.

The mission of this Canada Medical Association has not, so far, been developed. We are unable to point with satisfaction to what has been done in the past, but we must believe that our Society will in time be looked to for an expression of opinion bearing on public questions which appertain more especially to our profession. We may take cognizance of the influence for good in the councils of the nation which has attended the working of the British Medical Association—a society of medical practitioners embracing the three kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, and numbering some 10,000 members. Fifty years ago this Association was founded in the Board-room of the Worcester Infirmary. If we desire to emulate the usefulness of that society, much in the way of organization has yet to be done. It is acknowledged that the work of the British Medical Association, such of it at least as has to deal with public questions, is in a great measure transacted by the Branch Associations, of which there are many in England, Scotland and Ireland. I should gladly see a similar scheme introduced amongst us, for with Branch Associations holding meetings quarterly or oftener when necessary, the course of events bearing on matters of general interest, and which essentially belong to us as a profession, would be constantly under careful scrutiny, and many circumstances which are now passed over from being forgotten would be brought