

mental distress is one of the greatest boons of ordinary general anæsthesia, so that one advantage which has been claimed for spinal anæsthesia is probably a most undesirable feature. The injection itself even with experienced operators, is sometimes a tedious and difficult matter. The disagreeable, not to say alarming, after-effects, and the dangers to which the spinal cord itself is necessarily exposed, will cause conservative practitioners to go slowly in the adoption of the method. The article by Dr. Corning, of New York, (*N. Y. Medical Journal*), who really discovered the method some fifteen years ago, makes one of the most thoughtful, modest and conservative estimates of the value of spinal anæsthesia we have yet seen. It would be well for those, who have had no experience with the matter, to give heed to the teaching of the discoverer.

A MEDICAL CO-OPERATIVE SUPPLY ASSOCIATION.

The prospectus of "The Physicians' and Surgeons' Supply Association, Limited," an organization with an authorized capital of \$100,000, officered and controlled entirely by members of the Medical profession, has just been issued. The scheme evidently has the endorsement and active support of influential members of the profession, the list of provisional directors including some of the best known physicians of the Province. The headquarters of the Association are to be in Toronto, and stock, not exceeding \$500 each, is to be allotted only to physicians and surgeons in active practice, so that any profits in the business will revert to members of the profession. The aims of the Association are well set forth in the prospectus, "the cardinal principles and essence of the movement," it is stated, "being professional co-operation for professional advantages." The supply house of the Association is to open in Toronto for business on January 1st, 1901. The success of this organization will be watched with much interest by the profession. Similar associations in England and the United States have been well received and have become firmly established. That there is, in existing conditions, ample justification for such a departure, there can be little doubt. The Medical profession has too large a following of commercial parasites that feed by turning to their selfish interests the results of their self-sacrificing labors for the advancement of medical science or the relief of suffering. Whether such associations as this will help to obviate the difficulty remains to be seen. Any legitimate and sincere attempt with that end in view, however, is sure of generous support.