

with the success of the September meeting. Apart from this, however, the number of members from distant parts of the Dominion was remarkably small. Dr. Chown, of Winnipeg, and Praeger, of Nanaimo, B.C., were the sole representatives of the vast territory extending from Western Ontario to the Pacific Coast. Dr. Muir, of Truro, N.S., alone represented the Provinces down "by the sea." Fortunately the quality was good while the quantity was small, but, all the same, that won't make what they call a *big meeting*. The "Montreal contingent" were on hand in full force, and contributed much towards the success of the meeting intellectually and otherwise. Ottawa sent Sir James Grant and Drs. Harry Wright and Prevost.

Although the meeting was not large, it was a pleasant and successful one in all respects. Many excellent papers were read and freely discussed. We hope to publish some of these and expect to give a full report of the proceedings in our next issue. We were much pleased to see Dr. W. Warren Potter, of Buffalo, a guest of the Association. The many friends he made in Toronto will gladly give him a cordial welcome when he visits us on future occasions. The visitors were well entertained by the Torontonians. There was a very pleasant yacht excursion on the afternoon of the 10th, in the Oriole, Aileen, and Abeona. Commodore Ross was in command, but at a critical moment when the waves were running high, and one side of the yachts was running low, the skilful and daring veteran from the East, Admiral Rogers Tomme, assumed control, and saved the fleet from shipwreck and general disaster. A banquet was given by the Profession of Toronto on the evening of the 11th, in the Queen's Hotel, and passed off very pleasantly indeed. We have not space for much of a personal nature, but we cannot refrain from saying a word for the President, Dr. James Ross. His untiring efforts in the interests of the Association, and the members present, contributed very much indeed towards the success of the meeting in all directions.

The next meeting will be held in Montreal, under the Presidency of Dr. T. G. Roddick, who has been for many years one of the most able and enthusiastic workers in the Associa-

tion. Dr. James Bell had made certain arrangements for next summer which would prevent him from acting as Secretary, and the Committee on Nominations very reluctantly allowed him to retire. Dr. Birkett, of Montreal, was elected General Secretary, and Dr. W. H. B. Aikins, Treasurer (re-elected).

### HYPNOTISM.

Between twenty and thirty years ago it was quite the fashion for travelling *professors* to make public exhibition of their powers in mesmerism. The favorite subject for such experiments was a respectable, innocent, rather weak-minded citizen, who could be brought quickly and completely under the *spell*. That such exhibitions were highly successful from the *professor's* point of view, cannot be doubted. The amateur mesmerist was frequently called in to exhibit his skill in the drawing-room, and responded, with more or less success.

In recent years, medical scientists have devoted considerable attention to mesmerism, under the name of hypnotism. Success has attended the efforts of modern hypnotists just as it smiled on the labors of both the ignorant and learned peripatetics and drawing-room showmen of former times. Great results were promised. The old fad with the new name was to become a wondrous therapeutic agent. The hypnotizer was to eagle-eye the suffering victim, and cry "presto, pass"—pains were then to vanish, and balmy sleep was to gently steal over the weary invalid.

The subject was very thoroughly discussed at the last meeting of the British Medical Association, and good effects are likely to accrue therefrom. There appeared to be a general consensus of opinion that hypnotism was a powerful agent when applied to a limited number of individuals. Dr. Gairdner, of Glasgow, was fully impressed with its powers at a drawing-room exhibition which he witnessed, but at the same time had a feeling that there was something "no canny" about it. Scotch shrewdness and common sense are not easily dissipated by the glare of scientific sensationalism. Dr. Norman Kerr acknowledged that a limited number were susceptible, but the after effect was a disturbed mental balance and nerve exhaustion.