

oped in smaller cities and towns to a much greater extent than is at present the case. For instance, in a town where there are, say, six practitioners, each one, while attending to his private practice, which would of course be of a general character, might at the same time devote himself particularly to some special branch of the profession. An arrangement might be made that in all surgical cases requiring consultation or assistance the one who devotes himself to surgery should be called in; in obscure internal diseases the physician might be summoned; in obstetrical and gynecological cases the gynecologist, etc. This is an arrangement which the public would soon learn to understand and to appreciate. A system similar in character has been for some years carried out in some cities of the Dominion with very great success. The arrangement, in order to be successful, would require the strictest honor and integrity on the part of those who entered into it.

My predecessor, Dr. Holmes, in his excellent address, which was listened to with such pleasure in Quebec last year, made numerous suggestions for the future advancement of the profession in the Dominion. We hope soon to see many of these suggestions acted upon. The profession in Ontario have already made the preliminary arrangements for the establishment of an institution which will be of incalculable benefit to the medical men of the Province, viz, a Medical Reference Library. The joint committee of the Toronto Medical Society and the Ontario Medical Association have already made such advances that we can confidently promise the formation at an early date of a library of some thousands of volumes, which we hope will be largely used by members of the profession. Arrangements will be made whereby books may be sent, on certain conditions, to any part of the Province. It is also contemplated to have the library constantly open, so that members of the profession visiting Toronto may find a home and a place where they can see the latest medical literature.

This is still a young country, and there are many institutions which must be established to place us on an equal footing with older and wealthier nationalities. The fact of our being

young should not prevent us thus early laying the foundations of such as will be of the greatest benefit to future generations.

The past year has not been marked by any great discovery in our science. A steady progress has, however, been made in the various departments of medicine and surgery. The confirmation of previous discoveries, and the advancement of the limits of our knowledge, has been the work of our scientific men.

In abdominal surgery, great advances have been made.

In bacteriology discoveries are recorded which promise to assist very much in explaining away the many difficulties which constantly beset us in the study of internal disease.

I now turn to a sad portion of the history of the past year—the loss which this Association has sustained by the death of some of its active members. Among these I would mention the name of our late fellow-member, Dr. John Fulton. He was one of our most regular attendants, and always took an active part in every thing which pertained to the interest of the Association and of the profession at large. His comparatively early death, together with that of others who have recently been cut off—Drs. McBride and Hudson, of New York; Drs. Fagge, Moxon, and Mahomet, of London, Eng., has given rise to the question as to whether there is anything in our modern professional life which causes such early mortality. I have therefore determined to make a few remarks on over-work and its consequences as exhibited in the lives of our medical men.

In those days of intense activity we find frequent evidences of the effects of over-work in the members of the various professions and callings. In each profession, however, there are certain peculiarities, or peculiar methods of work, which are especially injurious to the human system. Of these, so far as they affect the medical profession, we wish to speak.

The victims of over-work in our profession may be divided into three or four classes.

The first class may be illustrated by the following example:

A young physician enters into city practice, and, in his eagerness to succeed rapidly, engages in lodge and other contract practice. In this