

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE FOR TORONTO

At a meeting of the Toronto Medical Society, December 18th, Dr. Osler delivered an interesting address on the advisability of establishing an Academy of Medicine in Toronto. He said there were three recognized important factors in the evolution of medical thought: (1) Medical schools, (2) Medical societies, and (3) Medical journals. Medical societies evolve with the growth of a place, and as a city grows special societies are organized for the various schools of medical faith or teaching. After a time, under conditions of a still greater expansion to the city and its medical bodies, the fact greatly becomes patent to those societies when a fusion of two into one centrally organized institution, called an Academy of Medicine, would serve the purposes of each on a larger and better plan. In Toronto there are Clinical, Medical and Pathological Societies, each in itself doing good work, but under existing circumstances their horizon is necessarily limited in the field of medical knowledge, and their usefulness is confined within certain narrow boundaries.

The amalgamation of all these societies into an Academy of Medicine would increase the field of each, and would give much greater strength to the profession as a whole. Such an organization would be of great benefit to all medical men, but more especially to the younger men, who could have the advantage of an extensive library. It would stimulate work in the various branches, and give a firmer status to the profession. He thought the College of Physicians in Philadelphia was an institution that might well be taken as a model.

He himself would be willing to make one of five to subscribe \$100 a year for five years, or one of a greater number to subscribe a lesser sum a year for a longer period.

By such a grand consolidation of all the medical societies, with a large and increasing number of members, not belonging to Toronto alone, but from Hamilton, Kingston, London and other towns, an Academy of Medicine in Toronto would have an importance as great as the Law Society or any other large representative organization, which virtually represents the whole