

wish the united professions to meet in the old cities of Montreal and Quebec, and pass up and down the noble St. Lawrence, magnificent as it is in the length, depth and breadth of its waters, and still more fascinating from its early associations with European civilization. I would like that we should all stand on the scarred battlements of Quebec, and I think perhaps we, of this country, might learn a divine lesson of magnanimity after war, if we could together look at the obelisk erected by the graceful action of the British government to the joint memories of Wolfe and Montcalm, two brave soldiers, antagonists in battle, but in death, joint heirs in the memories of mankind."

Dr. Bowditch, in conclusion, suggested that the whole subject be referred to the judicial council of the Association then in session. It was so referred; and the council soon after reported *adversely* to the proposed amalgamation.

That decision, gentlemen, relieves me from the duty imposed upon me of presenting my own views upon the matter at this, the first "next annual meeting" of the Canada Medical Association. Yet I may be permitted to observe, in view of the vast but sparsely populated territory, and of the very diversified elements that compose our less widely extended but more furnished neighbour, union for scientific purposes was a lone possible; for all matters pertaining to medical ethics or education could not possibly have been discussed and settled by two peoples so near each other in many things, so far asunder in others. But I rejoice that the discussion of the subject has furnished occasion for the most friendly intercourse, where geographical boundaries were overleaped, and where forms of government did not obtrude but to give higher zest and relish to our intercourse. I beg, now, on your behalf, to reciprocate the sentiments of the President of the American Association, that each should send, annually, delegates to the other Association. Each will surpass the other in being neighbourly; and the delegates admitted to the other Association will be the representatives, from across the border, of mutual good will.

That has already been done this year, and I welcome most heartily our distinguished friends from the United States, and greet them in your name.

And now a word of explanation which might have come earlier. The Canada Medical Association did not ask for amalgamation; or to absorb, or be absorbed by, the American Medical Association; but merely for "a conference at some central point" so as to become "more intimately acquainted," and to discuss "Medical and Surgical questions on a common basis."

If our representatives at Philadelphia asked for more, they were not so commissioned; and

in resolving that "a union of the two Associations into one, is desirable," they expressed their own views,—advanced and liberal, no doubt,—but spoke not for the Canada Medical Association, which, at Niagara in 1875, asked merely for a "medical conference," for the "discussion of medical and surgical questions on a common basis" without either Association losing, or wishing to lose, its identity.

But union of the two Associations is of the near future, and in a way little dreamed of, perhaps, by the superficial observer. History tells us that absorption usually goes on from the north. The statistics recently furnished show a birth-rate for some parts of Canada which has never been equalled. In the city of Montreal, last year, the birth-rate was 49 per 1000, and the French Canadian element alone gave 64 per 1000, the largest birth-rate that has ever been reached. Union, amalgamation, absorption, are of the near and certain future, therefore, if our large birth-rate, and the alarmingly small birth-rate in some of the States of the adjoining Union, continue as at present.

FÆTICIDE.

Here, gentlemen, my somewhat lengthy address should end, but yielding to the solicitations of some of my medical friends, and impelled at the same time by a sense of duty, I venture to touch upon a matter of extreme delicacy, but of vital moment. It is asserted by an American writer, (Dr. Allen,) that in *certain* classes of society in some parts of the adjoining Union, for a long time past the marriage relation would seem to be regarded, not as a Divine institution ordained by God for the preservation of the species, but as a matter of convenience and self-interest. To use his own words: "the standard of living is too high; the artificial wants are too many; confinement to household duties is irksome; children are a burden; the responsibilities of maternity must be avoided or limited. Hence in married life a series of 'nameless acts' take place, which need not be described." In those few grave, weighty, momentous sentences, gentlemen, are contained a picture of some of the chief causes of that alarming decline of birth-rate, and with it, and as a consequence of it, a gradual and pernicious change in the female physical organization. This, in thoughtful minds, has created alarm lest the *induced* organization become permanent in type. I know not how to enter upon the subject without running some risk of offending reserved and modest sensibilities. The crime I have faintly alluded to is but the logical outcome of those theories of genesis and of population which have been so enticingly placed before us by some very eminent scientists in latter years. There was a time when the birth-rate, in the United States, was as large as in Europe, or in