

purposes in other countries, and thought the results ought to stimulate the profession of the Dominion to meet in large numbers at the meetings of the Association. His remarks on this subject were so pertinent that we give them more *in extenso*.—

“When we consider the vast amount of practice and observation which is daily and hourly going on, not only in the larger cities but in the surrounding districts of the Dominion, we cannot but feel with regret that an enormous fund of valuable information and experience is and has been allowed to run almost entirely to waste for a long succession of years. By joining such an Association as that which I have the honour to preside over this day, the numerous body of our professional brethren extensively engaged as general practitioners, who spend long and active lives in the practice of their profession, would undoubtedly be able to contribute inexhaustible stores of medical experience of the highest interest and value, and which, but for such a society, would remain uncommunicated, and therefore lost to the profession. The local medical societies do some good, but the results of their meetings are rarely published, and therefore many valuable cases never meet the eyes of the profession generally, and are thereby lost to the world. There is, however, one point of very considerable moment to which I beg to draw the attention of the younger members of the profession:—Many young practitioners are deterred from publishing or bringing before an association or society cases of interest which occurred in their practice, from an erroneous supposition on their part that it is necessary to work them up into the form of an elaborate essay. In nothing are they more deceived; the plain and truthful narrative of a single fact is of infinitely more value than a thousand theories. Wisely, then, did this Association when they met last year at Halifax limit the time for the reading of papers, by which, I trust, many members will be induced to send in communications which otherwise they might not feel disposed to do. It is only therefore in an Association such as this that the accumulated experience of a large body of the medical profession in this Dominion can be properly collected and concentrated, so as to turn such inestimable stores of knowledge to good account, and render them available and useful to the profession at large. When we glance over the medical literature of former years, not only of Great Britain and the Continent but of the United States—what, I would ask, are the works which have stood the test, of time, and which among the numerous changes produced by improving and increasing knowledge are

still “lasting monuments,” while systematic and, for their time, learned works have long since sunk into oblivion?—it will be found that those simple records of the experience of long lives, devoted with ardent zeal to the cultivation of medical knowledge, retain their value unto the present moment, and will doubtless continue to be consulted and referred to by succeeding generations, as mines of invaluable practical information. Now, if the practice of one man, as in the case of Hunter, Harvey, Smellie, and a host of others, can produce recollections of facts which have immortalized their names and conferred lasting benefits on every department of the healing art, how much more useful and important will be the combined efforts of hundreds of fact-collectors, concerning all the results of their practice and their observations, thrown into one great depository, viz: the Canadian Medical Association. If I have tired your patience, gentlemen, by dwelling too long upon what appears to me to be the great object and what will form the great strength and importance of this association, I mean the collecting of valuable facts on questions of medical and surgical practice and public hygiene, I beg your indulgence; and yet there is another point which I must not omit, I mean the effect these meetings have on our social position. It brings together the members of the medical profession, it enables us to know each other, it binds us together with a social bond which must ever be not only a source of sincere satisfaction but of mutual improvement and advantage. The friction of different minds earnestly engaged in similar pursuits is peculiarly valuable, for it is scarcely possible for any man who has been moved by the same impulses, agitated by the same fears, excited by the same hopes, and elated by the same successes, who has felt the responsibilities, and experienced the hours of painful anxiety in the treatment of difficult and dangerous cases, not to derive consolation and benefit by consultation and communication with his professional brethren.”

He then proceeded to allude to some of the new discoveries which had taken place during the year in the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery.

Among other matters he reported some cases in which Prof. Thomas had successfully transfused milk, an operation which was first performed by the President during the great cholera epidemic in this city, and with the most beneficial results. It was of great importance to remember that milk may be used as a substitute for blood in transfusion, for, besides being always more accessible, it