

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

AT the annual meeting of the Canada Medical Association, held in Halifax 1905, a special committee was appointed to consider the question of re-organizing the Association.

This committee reported on August 20th last, in favor of re-organization along the lines of the British Medical Association, and submitted a draft of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws. The appointment of such a committee was in itself sufficient evidence of the wide-spread dissatisfaction. For years, despite the energetic efforts of the successive presidents and their associates, the meetings of the Canada Medical Association have been disappointing in their results. The reason seems to have been a general lack of vital interest on the part of the profession. A few have been faithful, but only a few. We are bound to think the large majority have looked upon the meeting of the association as an opportune time for a short vacation—a refreshing of the body rather than the mind—and in this spirit have lent their presence. These, it is true, swell the numbers, but they are to the society what useless adipose is to the individual: their very presence is a menace to the life of the institution.

If the physician or surgeon expects to derive any benefit from the meeting, or be of any value to it, he must go prepared by careful study and research to discuss intelligently the subjects coming before the association, or at least that section of it, in which he is more vitally interested. This implies the announcement of the subjects for discussion one year in advance. We believe this should be done. To know the traditional facts regarding a disease is not sufficient, and to add new ones requires time and opportunity. The general addresses should be delivered by men, who from their wide experience or scientific research, are competent to lead—and to lead successfully we must lift.

The Canada Medical Association should be the mouth-piece of the Canadian profession. It is scarcely likely that the Roddick bill would have met the fate it did, had it had behind it the force of a strong national organization. The State