

## NIAGARA DISTRICT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Niagara District Medical Association was held in Welland on the 12th ult. The President, Dr. Clark, called the meeting to order at 1.30 p.m. Among those present were Drs. Schooley, Glasgow, Smith, and Howell, of Welland; Drs. Clark, Armour, Leitch, and King, St. Catharines; Dr. Haney, Humberstone; Dr. Anderson, Niagara; Dr. Oliver, Niagara Falls; Dr. Echlin, Thorold; Dr. Vanderburg, Merriton; Dr. Old, Port Colborne.

By special request the President read his inaugural address, which was well received. After a brief discussion of it by Drs. Haney and Armour, it was unanimously resolved, "That the thanks of the meeting are due and are hereby tendered to the President for his able and instructive address, and that the Secretary be instructed to furnish copies to the Ontario medical journals for publication.

Dr. Haney, of Humberstone, read an excellent paper, briefly reviewing the progress and history of medicine since the time of Hippocrates, but dwelling especially on the great advance that has been made in the healing art since he entered the profession some forty-five years ago.

Dr. Oliver, of Niagara Falls, related in detail the history of an interesting case of necrosis.

Dr. Armour opened the discussion on Dr. Oliver's case, which was continued by Drs. Schooley, Haney, Leitch, Vanderburg, Anderson, Echlin, and King.

After some further routine business, the meeting adjourned to meet again in St. Catharines, on the second Wednesday of January next.

## Ontario Medical Journal

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial Medical Associations will oblige by forwarding reports of the proceedings of their Associations.

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TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1892.

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### DIPHTHERIA IN TORONTO.

The curve for diphtheria, as given in the diagram attached to the 1891 report of the medical officer of Toronto, goes to show that the seasonal incidence of this disease in Toronto is similar to what obtains in England—a small number of deaths during the spring and summer months, a sharp rise in September, an increase in October, and the outbreak reaches its height in November, after which it declines during the rest of the winter.

The course of the present outbreak in Toronto is similar to that of 1891, unless it should fortunately happen that the procedure adopted by Dr. Allan—closing of the schools in the infected districts, flushing of the sewers, isolation of patients and disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc.—should cause the sickness wave to subside instead of reaching its maximum during the current month. Truth to tell, the total number of cases reported last month, 197, though not up to the maximum of November, 1891, 221, is sufficiently appalling.

The fact that these outbreaks of diphtheria occur simultaneously in England and Canada should induce us to look for some cause or causes common to both countries. If we admit the bacterial origin of the disease, it is reasonable to believe that sudden changes of temperature, such as occur in both countries during the autumn, causing chilling of the surface and a congested state of the mucous surfaces, would predispose to the easy growth and development of the Klebs-Löffler bacillus. The disease does not die out in summer, sporadic cases occurring regularly. For instance, though the uninformed in sanitary matters may have imagined that diphtheria had disappeared as completely from Toronto last summer as cholera has from New York, 239 cases were reported to the medical officer during the months of June,

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**MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS BEFORE MARRIAGE.**—It is said that there is a law in Brazil compelling prospective brides and grooms to submit to a medical examination as a preliminary to a legal marriage. Such a law is theoretically excellent as a means to stamp out hereditary tendencies to disease and to prevent the transmission of certain maladies, like syphilis, to the offspring. But practically, we fear that love laughs at doctors, just as well as at locksmiths.—*N. Y. Med. Record.*