

should be constrained by duty as well as by loyalty to use our utmost efforts to stem the downward tendency. In such an effort the Association has a part to perform; in order to perform that part effectively it will require to be furnished with every facility with which we can provide it.

Hitherto the Association has been content to minister to the wants of the general practitioner in its two sections of medicine and surgery, but we have reached a stage when it should afford facilities also for the encouragement of all classes of special work. The field of medicine is so broad as to render specializing necessary. While all should possess sound, general knowledge, none can be masters in more than a few branches at most. This year a first step has been taken in extending the work of the meeting by the formation of a Section for Laboratory Work. With a more vigorous association other sections will be necessary in order to bring out the best work in the various departments. An omnibus meeting never accomplishes much that is of the highest value. Men will not do their best work unless there is an opportunity of presenting it to such as are specially qualified to appreciate its value. While there are many questions in all specialties that the general meeting are quite able to discuss, and which should, as far as possible, be there presented, there are others that only those specially trained are able effectively to criticise and judge of their merits. The announcement is just made of the Eighth Medical Congress in Australasia to meet next year. It is to consist of eleven sections. With more than double their population we should be quite as capable of maintaining meetings with as many sections, in which the work presented would be of the highest order. I need not specify what addi-

tional sections should be formed. The widespread prevalence of contagious diseases indicates the necessity of directing even increasing attention to sanitation. Regarding tuberculosis there is a great awakening on the part of the public, but as to typhoid fever there is amazing apathy both in city and country. The formation of a section of state medicine seems therefore very desirable. Many other sections might be formed with great advantage to the Association's usefulness.

Another matter demanding the prompt and earnest consideration of this Association is the nostrum evil. Our friends to the south have been waging an increasingly active crusade against this evil during the last few years, and duty to the public no less than to our own interests demands that our action be prompt and energetic. The public do not understand the matter, and have no conception of the enormous injury done to their best interests. Those among them who give serious thought to the matter hold us responsible for their education in this question. I scarcely see how we can ignore the responsibility without detriment to our own interests as well as to theirs. They will be ready once they understand the matter to aid in suppressing it or mitigating it when it cannot be wholly eradicated.

There are many other questions that might fairly claim attention, such as intemperance and the cure of the inebriate, the physical training of the young, the medical inspection of schools, etc.

The educational authorities of the United States have just reported that 12,000,000 school children—one-third of their whole school population—are suffering from physical defects. Many of these are easily remedied, e.g., malnutrition, defective breath-