

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the above association this year has equalled and perhaps surpassed any other held during the fourteen years of its existence. This has not been due alone to the efforts of the officers and various committees but also to the members themselves throughout the province. Still, many of our ablest practitioners failed to respond to the general invitation to be present and to take part in the programme of the association. It is asserted that the reason is that they are too modest to tell what they have done and that they cannot spare the time. Many valuable clinical experiences might be given which would be of greatest value to the profession, particularly to the younger members, if this reserve were thrown off and the modest brethren would come forward.

Regarding the other objection, it is becoming a custom for the physician to take a holiday now like other professional men, and to spend a few days at a medical association might be made at least a minimum holiday for the busiest practitioner.

This meeting was in many of its features a fine success, good, substantial, scientific work having been reported. Some of the papers, particularly of the school-men, were rather didactic and lacking in originality. A few were too long-winded, and devoid of interest to busy, practical men.

The tendency to discuss the novel and rare operation to weariness was somewhat apparent; while the short, practical, pithy paper being often passed without any discussion, by reason of the time spent on the other, was disappointing. The line of experimental work was very interesting, and it should be encouraged. Reports of experiments on animals with drugs, and of the examination of body fluids, presentations of pathological speci-

mens and reports, all would be of interest to the younger men of the profession, and would incite activity of this kind among them. Every young physician could and should carry on experimental work. We have books to describe the technique of such work, the apparatus is cheap, and there are enthusiastic workers here and there who would gladly furnish any information or help to any interested in scientific research, and the meeting of the Ontario Medical Association could be made a sort of post-graduate course, where at least the younger men, who are so prone to drop their books after graduation, would catch the enthusiasm for scientific investigation.

The friendly greeting of American with Canadian, of city practitioner with provincial brother, of the young doctor with the old veteran, was a marked feature of this meeting—and not the least important.

DISINFECTION IN CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

It is generally conceded, that, owing to antiseptic methods, lesions and wounds, which were formerly considered mortal, nowadays heal, as if they were of the most simple character. The absolute rule of never permitting any objects, except those which are perfectly clean and free from any infective cause, to come in contact with living tissues has given an extraordinary success to the surgical work of the last twenty years.

In lying-in hospitals also, antiseptic methods have produced notable improvements, in fact, a real transformation. Thirty years ago, hospitals of this class were visited periodically by epidemics of puerperal fever, the nature and origin of which were certainly not understood (to put it mildly), as we understand them today. To save the unfortunate patients.