

honor of being Chairman, reported, "that, after mature deliberation, they recommend, that this Association take the necessary steps to have carried through the Dominion Legislature an act similar (in so far as it is adapted to this country) to the Medical Act of Great Britain, passed in 1858.

The Committee on Medical Statistics and Hygiene, (both of which subjects were referred to the same Committee) reported on Hygiene alone, through Dr. Hingston, the Chairman, stating, "That there was a necessity for a comprehensive system of Sanitary laws," and promised a report on Vital Statistics at a later period of the session. A reference to the minutes of the proceedings of the Association (so far as attainable) shews that nothing whatever has been done in the way of legislation in this matter.

Another Committee on Statistics and Hygiene was named at the Annual Meeting of 1873, held at St. John, N. B., of which Dr. Botsford, one of our intellectual, indefatigable, and zealous ex-Vice-Presidents is Chairman. He wrote to me on this subject in March last as follows: "I was named as one to bring the matter of Hygiene before the Dominion Legislature, especially looking to a registration of deaths and the causes, over the whole Dominion. For the province of New Brunswick I have to report that, whilst Boards of Health are provided for every county, and a registration of marriages for the Province, this is all that has been accomplished; and a registration of deaths, and the causes, does not exist!"

Although, gentlemen, I quite concur in the sentiments expressed by Dr. Workman in his address of welcome at our second Anniversary Meeting, that "neither the elevation, nor what is styled the protection of our profession is to be achieved by acts of Parliament,—and, that if we would be elevated, we must climb the steep ascent ourselves," yet there are certain subjects that demand legislation before we can make any useful application of them. Among these, I class Vital Statistics, Registration, and one uniform system of preliminary and professional education, examination and licensing. Committees have reported on all these subjects, and their reports have been adopted; and, as Dr. Tupper said in his address at Ottawa in 1870, "a far higher step has been taken by resolving that it was for the interest of the public and the profession, that one common portal of en-

trance should be established for the purpose of granting licences to practice."

Precisely the same opinions have frequently found utterance in the meetings of our elder sister, the American Medical Association, as will be seen by a reference to their transactions, from which had time permitted, I might profitably have made some extracts. This is a subject that has occupied the best attention of various Committees since the formation of this Association, and resulted in the forming of the "Contemplated Medical Act for the Dominion of Canada," which was amended at the third Annual Meeting of the Association, held at Ottawa in September, 1870. It was again amended at the Annual Meeting held at Quebec, in September, 1871, and finally was referred to the Annual Meeting held in Montreal in 1872, each and every member of the Association having received in the meantime a printed copy of the same. This proposed Act has been a bone of contention, an apple of discord, to the Association ever since it was first introduced. In the western province of the Dominion, gentlemen, you have an Act based upon the English Medical Act, which is working most satisfactorily. The Province of Quebec, also, has an Act that needs very little amendment. The Eastern Provinces, however, of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which are younger in Medical Science and Literature, and have hitherto been almost without medical schools, are not so far advanced in the medical sciences as the older Provinces of the Dominion, and are not ready to enter on the same platform as their older brethren, and, therefore, at the Annual Meeting, held in 1872, it was resolved unanimously, to postpone the further consideration of the proposed Bill for two years. Thus it has been suspended like Mahomet's coffin, between heaven and earth, for two years past, and will possibly come up for action at this meeting. Doubts have been expressed by lawyers, as well as legislators (and by no less an authority than Dr. Tupper) of the legislative powers of the Parliament of the Dominion to pass any Medical Act for the whole Dominion, unless, or until previous concerted action has been taken by the Local Legislatures; and to this opinion I strongly incline. In the American Medical Association progress is being steadily made in that direction by state legislation and I think the best thing we can do is to agitate