

York are specialists, or devote themselves more or less to special branches, the Academy is split into ten sections, each section devoted to a specialty, and the members attaching themselves to the section they are most interested in. Dr. A. Jacobi is President of the Academy. Each section again has its own President, and corps of officers, and meets once a month. There are two general meetings a month. These meetings, together with those of some of the other societies, who meet here, make it so that there is a meeting almost every evening, and as the papers are always good and the debates interesting, the Academy is well attended.

There are in this city something like 113 Homes and Asylums for different classes of people,—homeless, orphans, insane, etc., and 49 Hospitals, and 26 Public Free Dispensaries. Lying to the East of the city and a part of the corporation, are a number of islands, splendidly adapted for the purpose they serve. North Brothers Island, to the North-east, affords a place of quarantine for small-pox and typhus. On Randall's Island are Idiot Asylums, and Orphan Homes. On Ward's Island are the City Insane Asylum with 1800 male inmates, The State Emigrant Hospital with 1000 beds, and the Homœopathic Hospital. Then on Blackwell's Island is the largest hospital of the city—Charity—with 1000 patients of all diseases. This hospital is best known for its venereal and skin diseases, of which there is a very large service. Among the hospitals in the city the largest is Bellevue, with 800 patients of all kind of diseases, excepting contagious; and although not so well equipped as some of the other hospitals, it has the most varied service, and affords clinical material for all three colleges. The New York Hospital is probably the finest, and is the most richly endowed hospital in the city. It has a good, large operating room, which is not the case with most of the hospitals, and a good surgical service, so that a good place to see operations is here. Roosevelt, opposite the College of Physicians and Surgeons is another of the wealthy and modern hospitals, has 170 beds and is built on the pavilion plan. Among the hospitals for special purposes, is the Woman's Hospital, 170 beds, magnificently equipped, and where gynæcological operations can be seen at almost every hour. Students and practitioners are admitted to the operations of these and of mostly all the other hospitals and dispensaries.

In New York there are over 2,000 physicians, besides a large number of Homœopaths and Eclectics, and it is not an uncommon thing to see the shingles of three and four doctors in one house. Incomes ranges from nothing to one hundred thousand dollars—a large number of the former, and one doctor, an eminent gynæcologist is said to receive the latter amount from his profession. A young doctor, commencing practice, pays for his office and bedroom, from \$500 to \$1200 a year rent, according to the locality of the neighborhood he lives in. Owing to the large number of dispensaries, and the rivalry between them to get large classes, the clinical material to be made use of is enormous. Nor are the patients who regularly attend dispensaries poor. Probably one half of them could and should pay for medical attendance, but because of the anxiety of attending physicians to build up large clinics, it is indeed rare that a patient is turned away because of the silk dress or seal skin coat she wears. This is all very well for the attending physician and students, but not so agreeable to the young doctor trying to pay a portion of his rent out of his income.

Among the better families, a trained nurse, in time of sickness, is just as indispensable as a doctor. Within the past few weeks, a training school for male nurses has, through the liberality of Mr. D. O. Mills, been opened in connection with Bellevue Hospital, and woman's particular field of labor is being invaded.

CANUCK.

MUTUAL DEFENCE FUND.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—In a recent issue of your journal, I notice that several medical men throughout the Province had contributed to the "Leslie Fund," which is in itself very praiseworthy; but could not a fund be started for the defence of medical men who are unfortunate enough to be involved in such cases? I expected that the Medical Association, which recently met in Toronto, would have acted on the suggestions advanced a year ago by Dr. W. H. Henderson, of Kingston, the worthy President of the Association for '88, and organize a fund for mutual defence; but so far I have not seen that any steps were taken in that direction. In support of these suggestions, would it not be practicable for the College of Physicians and Surgeons, to