In the afternoon, Dr. Richardsoon took the chair, and the following visitors were introduced to the meeting and welcomed to the platform by the chairman :—Drs. Porter, Gerster, Satterthwaite, and G. H. Fox, New York ; Drs. Cronyn and Hubbell, Buffalo, the latter representing the New York State Medical Association ; Drs. Manton and Duffield, Detroit, the latter being a delegate from the State Medical Society of Michigan ; Dr. J. A. Packard, of Philadelphia, and Drs. Stewart and Cameron, of Montreal.

Dr. Packard (on being introduced) remarked, that there were fierce but interesting discussions at the present time on the subject of reciprocity between Canada and the United States, and on the fisheries question. In the fisheries question it seemed to him there was nothing in it but a cod, not worth eating any way. (Laughter). He was in favor of reciprocity—certainly as far as the medical profession was concerned ; and he hoped the *entente cordiale* now existing in that respect between the two countries would never be broken.

Dr. Cronyn remarked that his friend Dr. Packard omitted the very point that was required. He should have advised the medical gentlemen before him to go to the United States, and take possession there, as he (the speaker) had done many years ago.

The President then delivered his annual address. He said it was difficult for one in his position to choose a subject to discourse upon before such an audience as that before him. It was not desirable for one man to set himself up as an authority, or to deal with any one topic. He therefore chose to make a brief reference to some of the improvements during his experience of forty years in the general methods of medical treatment. Had he chosen anatomy he might, he said, feel more at home in his subject, but it might not be out of place to take a retrospective view of general medical treatment. He had been a close observer of the nature of disease, and had watched the changes which had taken place in the views regarding the nature of disease, and consequently in the modes of treatment. Forty years ago, inflammation was considered to be at the root of almost all diseases. The most incongruous diseases were ranked under the head of "Inflammatory Diseases." As a remedy, bleeding was practised very largely until 1853. In Toronto it was practised for scarlet fever until 1860, frequently with the most disastrous results. He would refer more specially to two diseases in regard to which great improvements had taken place within the last quarter of a century, viz., splenic fever and hydrophobia. Dr. Budd, of Bristol, seemed to have the high distinction of being the first British physician to foresee the importance of the agency of minute organisms in the propagation of disease. Dr. Budd seemed to have been led to this prevision by the fact of the invariable reproduction of every specific disease. Splenic fever was a terrible scourge in Europe, how malignant might be gathered from one paragraph from Trousseau :—"The period of its incubation is very short. An ox which has been at work may return to its stall apparently healthy. He eats as usual ; then he lies down on his side and breathes heavily, while the eyes are still clear. Suddenly his head drops, his body grows cold, at the end of an hour, the eye becomes glazed, the animal struggles to get up and falls dead ; the struggle only lasting for one hour and a half." Devaine, as early as 1859, discovered the presence of minute rods in the blood of animals who died of splenic fever, but it was not until 1863, after Pasteur's researches into the part played by microbes in fermentations, that he suspected their real agency in the production of disease. Pasteur's experiments were well known ; his last experiment was made at the invitation of the president of the Society of Agriculture, and was watched by Pasteur's colleagues, who feared he had been too rash. "A flock of sheep was divided into two groups, the members of one group being all vaccinated with attenuated virus, while those of the other group were left unvaccinated. A number of cows were also subjected to a precisely similar treatment. Fourteen days afterwards all the sheep vaccinated and unvaccinated were inoculated with a very violent virus, and three days subsequently more than 200 persons assembled to see the result. Twenty-one of the twenty-five unvaccinated sheep were already dead, and the remaining four were dying. The twenty-five vaccinated sheep were in full health. A similar result occurred amongst the cattle. The breeders of cattle at once overwhelmed Pasteur with applications for vaccine, and by the end of 1883 nearly 500,000 animals had been protected." Pasteur's crowning triumph was achieved over that dread disease, hydrophobia, which had hitherto baffled medical skill. After repeated experiments he determined, 1. That the virus attained its most intense virulence in the marrow of the infected animals. 2. That the virus of a mad dog inoculated by trephining under the *dura mater* of a rabbit, always communicated rabies to the animal after a period of incubation of about fifteen days. 3. That successive inoculations with virus so obtained show a marked tendency to a diminution of the period of incubation down to seven days, where the virus seems to have attained its greatest intensity. 4. That portions of these marrows exposed to dry uncontaminated air, gradually lose their virulence until at last it dies out. Vaccine virus was not an invariable protection against smallpox, nor was smallpox itself a protection against subsequent attacks, and more must not be demanded for vaccination for hydrophobia than from vaccination for smallpox. Instead of cavil and doubt, we