

read at the annual meetings of the Association has been increasing, the original contributions to the medical journals are becoming more numerous, and several meritorious works upon medical topics have of late emanated from Canadian minds.

It is an encouraging fact that for the second time in our history—first at Montreal and now at Ottawa—we have had to divide into sections in order that sufficient time may be afforded for the reading of papers prepared by the members of the Association. While some fifteen papers, in addition to four reports, were read at the Montreal meeting, about twenty papers are in hand or promised for the present one, besides several reports upon special subjects.

Even should these papers contain no new facts, which is a highly improbable supposition, they will more or less fulfil one of the special uses of these meetings—they will tend to disseminate knowledge, which is the next best thing to discovering scientific truth.

Having thus far endeavored to point out some of the good that has been effected by the Canada Medical Association, permit me to follow the example of several of my predecessors, and to suggest for your consideration some objects which appear to me deserving of the approval and advocacy of this representative body—*i.e.*, let us contemplate what further good we should strive to secure.

#### UNIFORM SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES.

If I do not press upon your attention the great importance to this Canada of ours of a law providing for an uniform system throughout the Dominion of registering births, deaths and marriages, it is because the subject has been frequently brought before you at former meetings, and not that I do not regard it as *the first* question in State medicine demanding the adoption of the Government and the advocacy and active support of this body. On the contrary, the following remarks of one well qualified to judge, when speaking of Dr. Farr's work as "Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages" in Great Britain, in my opinion truthfully set forth the value of such a system :—