

Meetings of Medical Societies.

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING IN VICTORIA HALL.
HELD AT LONDON, ONT.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association opened at Victoria Hall, London, Ont., on the 20th Sept., ult., and continued for two days.

Dr. Bray, of Chatham, the retiring President, introduced his successor, Dr. Sheard, of Toronto, to the convention in a timely address, after which a number of new members were admitted, and the following Nominating Committee appointed: Drs. J. Stewart and Roddick, of Montreal; Fulton, of St. Thomas; J. E. Graham, A. McPhedran, of Toronto; I. Olmsted, of Hamilton; T. T. S. Harrison, of Selkirk; J. K. Holmes, of Chatham; R. M. Bucke and H. A. McCallum of London.

Beside the President there were on the platform Dr. H. S. Birkett, Montreal, General Secretary; Dr. W. H. B. Atkins, Toronto, Treasurer; Drs. Reeve, McFarlane and Temple, of Toronto; and Harrison, of Selkirk, representing the Ontario Medical Association.

President Sheard then delivered the annual address. After thanking the members for having chosen him to preside over this annual meeting, the doctor said when he looked upon those who in the past five and twenty years had preceded him in office, and saw such names as Sir Charles Tupper, Sir James Grant, Dr. Howard, Dr. Osler, Dr. Hingston, Dr. Mullin, and many others, who might be said, as the pioneers of medical practice in the Dominion, to have carried the interest and character of the profession to its present high and respectable place, the gathering could understand that he (the President) acceded to the discharge of his duty with some trepidation. It became apparent twenty-six years ago to the fathers of medicine in the country that it would be a wise thing to unite the ablest of the best elements of medicine, so that in unity they might advance to material progress, that they might ever defend themselves against the inroads of charlatanism and skepticism, so ready to scoff at scientific judgment, and that by cultivating friendly feeling and advancing special lines of work they could attain to

a measure of progress which would be mutually beneficial. In alluding to the grand result arising from the institution, the President said that when it had set an impermeable front, which only the boldest and rudest would attempt to attack, when it was of still more value to younger men, when it had left an example which would live long after the oldest members have passed away, surely it could not be said that the Dominion Medical Association had lived in vain. He alluded to the names of Drs. Howard and Ross, of Montreal; our own Dr. Osler, Dr. Hodder Dr. Ross, Dr. Workman, and Dr. Wright, of Toronto, as men who had left behind them a character and example which every young man starting out in his profession ought to remember. Unfortunately there was a growing tendency for the younger man to assume that it was reserved for him to know all the best and most improved methods of scientific discovery, and while some of these might not be as familiar to his older colleagues, and whilst some of them might be occasionally paraded in an uncalled for manner before a less informed patient, jealousies were apt to arise which, as time advanced, tended to prevent harmony of feeling which should pertain between two professional colleagues. As there should be unity among the members of the profession in Canada, so there should be some unity of privilege, continued the President. It appears to me scarcely conducive to professional unity that we should have in the various provinces of the Dominion separate licensing bodies which confer the privilege of practising only for the Province, and that those of us who to-day may reside in Ontario, in travelling to Manitoba or British Columbia, require there to pass a period of naturalization before we can even be examined, and then to pass again an examination which proves our qualification to practise—and this in our own country! Surely we are all Canadians, and if the spirit of the times means anything, we are united in patriotic feeling and national progress. Why should it be different in medicine? I may express the earnest hope that the time is not far distant when there will be some Central Examining Board or Boards for the whole Dominion, when a license from such a body will be a qualification to practise from one end of the country to the other. Branching into more