

The Association was founded in 1833, and so rapid was its growth, that, in a few years, it passed beyond the provincial stage and became a national affair, so that now, within the United Kingdom alone, the Association is divided into some forty branches, and has a total membership of over 17,000.

The principal objects which the Association keeps in view are of the highest order, such as the gathering of useful information gained in hospitals, at the bedside, and on the battlefield; the advancement of the service of law as applied to the practice of medicine, and the promotion of scientific work. Over fifteen thousand dollars are spent annually in such work, and most valuable reports have resulted, many of which have proved to be of inestimable life-saving utility. There has hardly been any matter of medical legislation, either for the benefit of the medical profession or for that of mankind at large, since Queen Victoria came to the throne, in which the Association has not been either the motor power or an important modifying factor. Early in its infancy the first legislation on vaccination was brought about by a petition presented to the House of Lords, and it has ever since been foremost in furthering those projects which tend to diminish disease and suffering, prolong life, and promote the welfare of mankind.

The business portion of the 65th annual meeting had already been held in Exeter Hall, London, England, after which adjournment took place to meet again in Montreal on August 31st. According to custom the inaugural service was held in Christ's Church Cathedral, and was certainly one of the most imposing church services ever held in Canada. It seemed eminently appropriate that a meeting of such singular importance should be opened in one of the most beautiful Anglican churches in the Dominion, and that it should be addressed by one of the most learned and eloquent prelates in the Canadian Church. None of those who had the privilege of attending will forget the eloquent words which fell from the lips of his Lordship the Bishop of Niagara.

In the afternoon the opening meeting took place in Windsor Hall, a splendid room capable of seating over 3,000 people. The hall was packed to the doors by a large and interested audience.