

These details of the work of our society show most markedly the position that our society is taking as a public body and as a former of public opinion in matters bearing upon the health of the people, as again in matters which more strictly bear upon the interests of the medical profession in this country at large.

Nor does the list above given exhaust the public work accomplished by the society. Acting under recommendations from us, Dr. Roddick procured an amendment of the Adulteration Act of the Dominion so that now one standard authority is recognised as determining the composition and adulteration of drugs, to wit, the British Pharmacopœia, which thus incidentally becomes the official Pharmacopœia of the Dominion; while again, as already stated by the secretary, a committee nominated by the society has accepted the invitation of the general Medical Council of Great Britain to take an active means to make Canada no whit behind the other colonies and British possessions in formulating an addendum to the same British Pharmacopœia. Inasmuch as the work accomplished by this committee affected the whole Dominion, it was thought well to present its draft report to the Canadian Medical Association, which body has nominated a committee composed of the old members with a few additions, and has authorised it to report directly to Great Britain.

I think I am right in saying that in no previous session has our society made its influence felt outside as it has in that just closed. Indeed, gentlemen, remembering what we are, namely, a society composed of and open to practitioners, English and French, of this the leading city of the Dominion, a society of old standing, of large membership, meeting frequently and having high ideals, we must more and more recognise our responsibility and our power in forming and in influencing public opinion in reference to all that bears upon health and the well-being of the people. Just as the individual practitioner is, in his relation to his patients, very much more than a mere drug giver—is the family adviser and the family friend—so should our society be something much more than a mere centre for the mutual interchange of views upon strictly professional matters. It should have as its object the encouragement and carrying forward of everything that bears upon the physical well-being of the community, not merely here in Montreal itself, but in the Dominion at large. Herein lies our great opportunity, and, as I say, the history of the last session shows that we can well use it for the public good.

One other and notable feature in the history of the year must not be forgotten in this brief review. I refer to the change in the by-laws, whereby all practitioners of good standing, irrespective of sex, are eligible for membership. The society was ripe for this change, and now that it has been made, it seems absurd that it should not have been made