

and practical—and (3) The developing, unifying, concentrating, and giving efficient practical expression of the sentiments, wishes, and policy of the profession, concerning its educational, legal, and sanitary welfare, and the relations of the latter to the community as a whole." A committee giving due prominence to these considerations, and taking advantage of the experience of similar associations in other countries, might form a scheme which, if acted upon, would be of the greatest advantage to the profession throughout the whole Dominion.

As an example of what might be accomplished by greater unity I would mention suppression of the evil which we have to contend against in the matter of lodge, or contract practice. No one who understands the kind of work will deny that the system is, as a general rule, one of great unfairness, so far as the medical profession is concerned. I speak from personal experience, formed in the earlier years of my practice, as well as from knowledge since gathered, when I say that the physician does not, as a rule, get more than twenty-five to fifty cents a visit for lodge work. In many benefit societies the only real benefit derived by the members is the free medical attendance.

Of course, many will say, we quite agree with you that the fees are too low, and that the system is bad, but how are you going to prevent it? Have we ever, as a united profession, tried to amend it? Have we an organization sufficiently strong to attempt to cope with the difficulty? I think not. If these were the only questions to be dealt with it would be worth all the trouble of making a thorough organization. Then there are the general questions of fees, of ethics, and others of vital importance, about which we have few laws, and few methods of enforcing the law.

It has been suggested that, in future, our meetings should be held only in those cities which are easily accessible to the majority of the members.

We are afraid that if the meetings were thus held only in central places the Association would, to a certain extent, lose its national character. If, however, we met only in such

cities or provinces as already possessed active local societies the same object would be attained. If the profession of any city or province has sufficient energy and enthusiasm to maintain an active local society there would be no danger of failure in case this body held its meetings in that city or province.

We may safely say that we have in this Dominion a profession not inferior in average ability and culture to that of any country in the world. The examination which was established some years ago by the Ontario Medical Council, and the methods of registration adopted by other provinces, have prevented to a large extent the entrance of inferior merit into the profession. We have thus a better average than would otherwise have been the case.

Is there that feeling of unity among medical men in this country which ought to exist? Is the enthusiasm for the study of science of medicine such as we would like to see? I may be wrong, but I sometimes think that in these points we are not on a par with those of many other countries.

There is no better method of improving the profession in these respects than by the formation of active local societies, so that practitioners may be more frequently brought together. Misunderstandings will be then explained and jealousies removed which would otherwise separate men for years. In these days, when unions and conventions are of such frequent occurrence in the various trades and professions, we lose much by want of organization and want of unanimity.

In looking to the future there is another point which must be noted and provided for, viz., the formation of specialties. Whatever diversity of opinion may exist with regard to the ethics and utility of specialists, one thing is certain, they have come to stay. The public readily appreciate the fact that a practitioner who devotes himself to one department will in all probability be more capable in that department than one who goes over the whole field of medicine. It is also a fact that many local diseases are relieved and cured more readily and certainly by specialists. It has been the opinion of some that specialism might be devel-