

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 developed in smaller cities and towns to a much greater extent than is at present the case. For instance, in a town where there are, say, six practitioners, each one, while attending to his private practice, which would, of course, be of a general character, might at the same time devote himself particularly to some special branch of the profession. An arrangement might be made that in all surgical cases requiring consultation or assistance the one who devotes himself to surgery should be called in; in obscure internal diseases the physician might be summoned; in obstetrical and gynaecological cases the gynaecologist, etc. This is an arrangement which the public would soon learn to understand and to appreciate. A system similar in character has been for some years carried out in some cities of the Dominion with very great success. The arrangement, in order to be successful, would require the strictest honor and integrity on the part of those who entered into it.

My predecessor, Dr. Holmes, in his excellent address, which was listened to with much pleasure in Quebec last year, made numerous suggestions for the future advancement of the pro-