

In order that our scientists should receive well-merited encouragement, that an individuality may be given to deserving, practical workers in this Canada of ours, that the public should as well benefit in full degree by the able papers presented at this and former conventions, I do think that a number of papers of specially instructive character should be printed in pamphlet form and largely distributed, especially such as apply to our system of public education and every-day life. I will merely mention by way of example, "Brain Stuffing and Forcing," by Dr. Clarke; "Ventilation of schools and a new method of estimating the proportion of carbon di-oxide in air," by Dr. Cassidy; papers by Professor Wright and Vaughan, and others of equal merit. Dr. Cassidy's paper should be read by every teacher; every school inspector should have a copy and should as well be supplied at public expense with a simple cheap contrivance to employ for practical use. An examination should be made of every school at regular intervals not less often than twice yearly and a report forwarded to the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health or other party. These examinations might also be made on the occasion of Inspectors' visits, and the results tabulated in this report. The importance of pure air to our developing men and women admits of no question, and some proof is necessary that our schools are in this particular, at least in some degree, sanitarily perfect. A committee could make a proper selection of such papers and decide on a proper method of distribution.

Inebriate asylums have become a necessity; the dipsomaniac must be considered next of kin to the lunatic and imbecile, and should be treated similarly; the Government should provide places for the special treatment and restraint of this class of unfortunates. The incarceration of lunatics in our common gaols is a most barbarous and inhuman practice. I am very pleased that this is recognized by our Provincial Executive, and that much-needed increased accommodation has been recently secured. Still it appears to me that as this class appears to increase rapidly the additional institution will soon be filled to its utmost capacity and the grievance commence anew. Would it not be better that the different municipalities should take care of their own, or, as in the case of Boards of Health, two or more unite and have one institution?

The cottage system would thus become a feature in their case, and a system admittedly more-preferable than the congregating of large numbers together under one roof. The inspection of milk and systematic vaccination, as recommended by the Provincial Board, should be carried out.

Gentlemen of the Executive Association and Provincial Board of Health, I thank you for your generous assistance in arriving at the preliminaries of this convention, I thank you for your company, and I hope this will be to you a profitable and interesting meeting, and that you may one and all return home, carrying pleasant memories of Lindsay and of Lindsay's hospitality.

**BRIEF RETROSPECT OF THE PROGRESS OF
MEDICINE, CURATIVE AND PREVENTIVE,
1828-1888, OR THE REVIEW
OF A LIFETIME.**

BY C. W. COVERNTON, M.D., MEMBER PROVINCIAL BOARD OF
HEALTH: READ AT LINDSAY.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—The unexpected visit of my oldest son, Dr. Wm. H. Covernton, who for twenty-one years has been practising our profession in the Argentine Republic, whilst preventing me from fulfilling my promise at the last meeting of our Provincial Board conjointly to represent it with Dr. Macdonald at the convention of the British Medical Association this year held at Glasgow, Scotiand, has afforded me the pleasure of being present at this Sanitary Convention of the 14th, 15th and 16th in your flourishing town of Lindsay, where I apprehend many will be found assembled, who, if not yet in the autumn of life, have yet so far advanced in the journey as to look forward to numerous and pleasant interchanges of records (during this annual gathering) of the progress, professional, general and commercial, of the numerous towns and cities of our rapidly-growing Province of Ontario; for although the card of invitation bears the request that each member of the Association of Executive Health Officers should at an early date signify the subject of the paper he proposes presenting for insertion in the programme, yet I apprehend that whilst bearing in mind that sanitary progress, preventive medicine, and preventive surgery should be remembered as the true *raison d'etre* of the gathering, the maxim "*Jucundum est dissipere in loco,*" is not likely to be forgotten, and in the intervals of relaxation between morning, afternoon, and evening meetings,