

familiarize himself with the office, functions and derangements of all the internal organs of the economy, and gladly sees medicine having its explorers in certain parts of certain structures; how necessary is it, in cases where reason is not totally dethroned, that the duty of advancing an opinion which is to sway a jury, and bear consequences the most important, should be confided to those who are accustomed to detect those early and less marked varieties, which might escape the notice of less experienced observers. I am forced into those reflections by a consciousness that justice has sometimes miscarried in Canada by the manner in which numbers have outweighed qualification. In French, and other continental courts, for many years past, questions of insanity have been referred to experts named by government, who form a neutral council, and neither one side nor the other can furnish *ex parte* evidence of a technical character in rebuttal. At the meeting in February last of the Medico-Legal Society, a step in the direction indicated was made by James Appleton Morgan, who moved, "That the Society appoint a committee to inquire into and ascertain concerning the system of medical and surgical experts appointed by law and attached to courts of justice, under stood to be provided by the laws of France."

In this Dominion we do not look, nor do we hope at once, for that complete system which obtains in Europe; but we may, by a tacit acquiescence, favour a plan or arrangement which would be productive of much good. I should say much more on this subject, but as two papers will be read before you on matters germane to this question, I shall leave to Dr. Workman and Dr. Hornibrook the completion of the task they have assumed.

#### UNION WITH THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

You may recollect that at the Niagara meeting of this Association, in 1875, it was decided that, "in consideration of the true interests of Medical Science, it is desirable that a medical conference should take place between the American and Canada Medical Associations at some central point to be determined upon; and that the American Association be advised as to the desirability of thus becoming more intimately acquainted, and affording an opportunity for the discussion of medical and surgical questions on a common basis."

At the Louisville meeting of the American Medical Association, later in the same year, the subject was taken up, and it was resolved "that a committee of thirteen be appointed, whose duty it shall be to confer with a like committee of the Canada Medical Association at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the joint committee of the Associations." That joint committee met in Philadelphia in September,

1876, when it was unanimously resolved "that a union of the two Associations into one is desirable, and that the president of each be requested to bring the subject before his own Association, and present his own views upon the matter, in order that the question may be fully discussed, and action taken thereon by the members at their next annual meeting." The "next annual meeting" of the American Medical Association was held in Chicago, in June of this year, and the distinguished President, Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, fulfilled in an admirable manner, the duty imposed upon him, by summarizing, in his address, the arguments for and against the proposed union.

Among the latter, speaking for the objectors, were: the difficulty already experienced of making so unwieldy a body as the American Medical Association, a working body, would be increased; the two languages used throughout this country; the difficulty of arranging the expenses of the united body; the widely distant places of meeting, &c., seemed against the proposed union.

The arguments in favour of the union were thus stated by Dr. Bowditch, and I give them in his own words as the best evidence of the kind feelings of the Association, and of the courtliness and urbanity of its President towards Canada and its young Association:

"*First*.—We should associate ourselves with a body of physicians all of whom have been educated under English influences, and many of whom have pursued their studies in England, and have received diplomas from the schools of that country. We all know the high standard of qualifications required by the British schools.

"*Second*.—Why may we not look upon such a connection as quite similar to that which has frequently taken place, and which will occur again hereafter, when a new state in this Union is formed?

"In that case, if a State Medical Society be organized, it has to send delegates to this Association. The only difference in the two cases, would be that Canada embraces a very much larger constituency than any of our new States would have.

"*Third*.—I am inclined to look with favour upon the proposed union from the standpoint of civilization itself. There can be no doubt, as already stated, that this American Association has been a great means for promoting good-will between the different sections of the United States. The proposed union with Canada will tend much towards the reuniting of two of the freest nations on the globe, and certainly civilization can get only good from such co operation. All means that we can bring to unite mankind I hail with delight.

"*Fourth*.—I will allude to what will give me, and I doubt not many more, great pleasure. I