

of the preamble, we certainly should have considered it a serious matter. That a few men of position voted in favour of this resolution, we have good reason to believe was altogether due to a misunderstanding of the nature of the resolution, as they were not aware of the petty jealousy and mean cliqueism which actuated those who framed it.

We should have preferred passing over this matter as beneath contempt, had we not wished to give our readers a sample of the immense amount of scientific business transacted, and of the enlightened minds which controlled the meeting. However, all this will, we hope, be changed in future, the affairs of the Society having been placed under the care of Dr. Fraser of Windsor, a man well known throughout the province, and deservedly holding a prominent position as a skillful and accomplished physician.

The next annual meeting will be held at Windsor, on the third Tuesday of July, 1869. We sincerely trust that a large number of country practitioners may attend, and that they will take entire control of the affairs of the Society. In conclusion, we would advise our professional brethren to take care lest the Society should degenerate into a mere local concern, or fall into the hands of a clique. If they attend to this we certainly expect that good results will spring from the re-organization of the Society, and that the profession generally will be greatly benefitted thereby.

We notice in the report of the meeting of the American Medical Association, held in Washington in May last, the following resolutions, sent to the Association on behalf of the New York State Medical Society:—"Resolved, That the faculties of the several Medical Colleges of the United States be recommended to announce explicitly, in their annual commencement circulars and advertisements, that they will not receive certificates of time of study from irregular practitioners, and that they will not confer the degree upon any one who may acknowledge his intention to practice in accordance with any exclusive system." We are glad to find that this resolution was immediately adopted, and trust that every respectable Medical College in the United States will fully carry out the recommendations. It has long been a standing reproach against American Colleges that any one could become a student of medicine and obtain a degree provided they possessed the requisite amount of money; and we are well pleased that the United States Colleges are likely to enquire more fully into the professional standing and fitness of those

presenting themselves as students than they have heretofore done.

We trust that the Canadian Medical Association, at its next meeting in September, will adopt a similar resolution. We believe the medical schools of Canada and Nova Scotia will not be far behind those of the United States in carrying the recommendations into effect.

Selections.

CARBOLIC ACID AS A REMEDIAL AGENT.

By W. KENSTER, M. D., UTICA, N. Y.

The merits of this comparatively new antiseptic and disinfectant have been thoroughly discussed, and the highest value accorded to it. Its powers have doubtless been exaggerated, nevertheless it stands in advance of any other article of its class both for efficacy and variety of application.

It is not my intention, however, to speak particularly of it as a disinfectant, but rather to offer a few suggestions concerning its use as a therapeutic agent.

Carbolic acid,* though discovered by Runge, a German chemist, in 1834, has only within the past few years been brought into general notice. It is prepared from the distillation of coal tar, and, as found in market, is a dark-brown coloured liquid, having a very pungent odour not unlike coal tar, but much more powerful. This variety is known as commercial carbolic acid, and is the quality used for disinfecting purposes; it is not however, pure carbolic acid, but contains a variable proportion of cresylic acid. This latter, although an excellent disinfectant, is not used for internal administration.

Pure carbolic acid is a white crystalline substance, the particles adhering with considerable tenacity, and after standing for some time, especially if the bottle be frequently opened, becomes slightly deliquescent and more tightly packed together. The two varieties of crystallized acid more generally found in the American market are prepared by Merck, of Darmstadt, and Calvert, of Manchester, England. Merck's preparation has a slight reddish tinge. Calvert's is quite white, having the appearance of snow which has been soaked in water. Merck's contains about 98 per cent of pure acid, and is slightly more deliquescent than Calvert's which is pure. Merck's however, is sufficiently pure

* It is incorrectly called an acid; it belongs to the class of alcohols.