

of the Dominion, as to the necessity and value of hygienic measures. According to Dr. Bowditch, there are more than "two hundred thousand human beings slaughtered annually in the United States by preventable diseases. May we not ask what is the death rate from such in Canada? The climate of Canada is certainly conducive to health, still there is ample room for the exercise of sanitary measures in order to stamp out such epidemics as greatly increase the death rate, and bring ruin to once flourishing commercial interests.

As to diseases in animals, the members of our profession hold great power in their own hands. We have observed how disease may spread from the lower species to the human family, and engender trouble and suffering, much of which, through careful observation and moderate direction, might be obviated. The English and French schools of the past, as well as the present, have worked nobly with a benevolent and philanthropic object in view, giving such light to science and the world as the people of our age enjoy. What illustrious names have we in John Hunter, Jenner, Bichat, Corvisart, Audral, Louis, Pasteur, Koch, and Sanderson, whose labors in comparative pathology have formed the very basis of modern thought, in both physiology and morbid anatomy. Buckle says, that "between Bichat and Aristotle 'I know no middle man.'" As for Hunter, like the meteoric light, his intellectual power flashed as the product of his century, and he certainly possessed a rare genius which could not fail to impress the age in which he flourished.

From the various facts coming under our observation as to the spread of disease, does it not appear reasonable there should be some degree of inspection as to both milk and meat, by the proper sanitary authorities, in order to guard more thoroughly the public interest. In Germany such is most rigidly carried into operation, and no meat is offered for sale until first reported upon in the *abattoir* by the scientific pathologist, and thus a good work is accomplished.

In conclusion let me say, I hold it to be the duty of every member of the profession in our city to connect himself with our society, to attend its meetings as often as practicable, and to contribute each year a few facts, at least, to our transactions. Thus our profession affords ample scope for the exercise of individuality. No one man knows all

minds, and delicate shadings of disease, which may escape one individual, may be grasped by another, and thus we are enabled to reciprocate nature's power, and place on record the daily observations of life's duty. Practitioners in rural districts, contrasting their opportunities with the larger sphere of hospital city work, may erroneously conclude that no new discovery can possibly be made in such a line of thought and practice. A single fact, however humble, is a valuable contribution to science, and such may as well be observed in country as city. What a blessing it would be if some rural practitioner could possibly define the exact cause of diphtheritic epidemics of recent origin at Chelsea, Ironsides, and Montebello. Pure air, fresh water, and nourishing diet in abundance, and yet this dire disease and its marked fatality. The death rate in the Gatineau country within the past few years from this disease, has certainly been very great.

There are difficulties to contend against in our profession, not greater, however, than in the performance of any work, worthy of our very best efforts. Our number in this city is not great, and there is an earnestness of work of a most commendable character. A few still remain in a measure outside our medical gatherings, the loss being truly theirs. The sympathetic power which unites us, assists in the development of intellectual activity and vigor. Years are rapidly passing on, and the connecting link will sever. We have the pleasing gratification of knowing that our efforts have not been altogether unsuccessful. Genius will raise one man in a million above his fellows. But, after all, "genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains."

Whatever the advantages may be, whether at the rural fireside or the city hospital, there are rare opportunities of doing good. Let the work be carefully and conscientiously performed, with painstaking application, and, rely upon it, the reward will come. Thanking you in an especial manner for my reappointment to the presidency of the society for the coming year, let me invite your hearty co-operation in the noble work placed in our hands.

A retailer of methylated spirits, in Glasgow, has been fined 20*l.* for each offence, having sold half-a-gill of methylated spirits as a beverage, to two persons on the 9th of August last.