

in the great discovery of circulation as Harvey. Another fact, gentlemen, consoling to us is that the greatest results often follow from the simplest discoveries—inventions which apparently require no great intellect. Thus the discovery of percussion by Avenbrugger in 1761, and the subsequent surpassing one of Laennec, though purely simple mechanical inventions, had more influence on the development of modern medicine than all the systems evolved from the brilliant intellects of the 18th century, of such men as Boerhaave, Van Suieten, Hoffman, Stahl, Haller, Cullen. And the most scientific and exact method or school the world ever saw, the modern German school, acknowledges as its founder Johann L. Schonlein, and dates its origin from his apparently small discovery of a parasitic growth in a disease of the hair, in 1839. It may, no doubt does, seem simple to many of you to mention such facts; but you will pardon me when you remember I am speaking to many who, like myself, require such examples to urge us on to work. The great territory we are scattered over makes communication difficult, and many have, as I know, from listening here been prompted to observe more closely.

A RETROSPECT.

My first idea, gentlemen, in thinking over a subject likely to be of sufficient interest to you, and within my powers of description, was to give a brief retrospect of surgery since my entrance to the profession, twenty-six years ago. After the expenditure of much time, I found it too hypnotic even for myself. Fortunately, a kind mentor said, "To the Sections belong such subjects." "To you, as President, belongs the duty of noticing such subjects as are of general interest to the profession in this country, and will evoke from the society opinions which their importance demands, as also a brief review of the general progress since our last meeting. I need hardly say his advice was peculiarly grateful, and I have endeavored to act on it. Invoking your indulgence in listening, as well as your counsel and experience in disposing, we will proceed to consider them. About a month ago I was presented with a book usually looked on with repugnance, a blue book; it was a portion of the census of 1881, the last one taken, and just published. I found some facts therein, possibly not new to you, but new and surprising to me. I

found the population of the whole Dominion to be 4,324,876, scattered over an immense territory. Of this Ontario has 1,923,228, Quebec 1,359,027, the balance being divided among the other provinces. I found the death-rate varied a great deal without any reasons given; from 11.81 per 1,000 in Ontario, the healthiest; to British Columbia with 20.35; Quebec following closely with 19.07 per 1,000 persons. On looking at the totals, I was astonished to find Ontario, with nearly 600,000 more population, had some 3,000 deaths less per annum than Quebec, the figures being—Quebec, 25,930; Ontario, 22,727; population considered, the difference is simply enormous.

QUEBEC'S EXCESSIVE DEATH RATE.

In looking for causes I found that this excessive death rate in the Province of Quebec was due to the great mortality among children, the deaths from 1 to 11 years being more than sufficient to explain the discrepancy; that it is truly a "Slaughtering of Innocents" the figures will explain. For the first year Quebec, 8,350 deaths, 1,000 more boys than girls; Ontario, 5,418 deaths, 760 more boys than girls; Quebec, 5,016 deaths, 300 more boys from first to fourth year; Ontario, 3,080, with 200 more boys during the same year. Next table, from 4 years to 11 years, we have 2,776 deaths in Quebec, and 22 more boys, while Ontario for same time has 1,973, with 43 more boys, making a grand total of 16,142 deaths in the Province of Quebec from 1 to 11 years, and a majority of 1,290 boys, while for the same period Ontario has only 10,471, and a majority of 973 boys. Their totals are 26,613, with 2,263 boys. The difference in favor of Ontario, without reference to population, is the large one of 5,671. Were it not an official document carefully prepared, I would not believe it; it is a matter which concerns all the provinces; but the fair fame of the Province of Quebec is particularly impeached. It is also eminently proper that through this Society our statesmen may consider so important a matter, if only from an economic point of view, and prescribe a remedy.

SIR JAMES PAGET,

in an address before the International Health Exhibition last June, on "The Relation between National Health and Work," containing a vast amount of carefully calculated statistics, in eloquent, graphic language, describes the loss to Britain, and says with reference to preventible