

would not be gained equally as well by the use of sodium hydroxide, or potassium hydroxide, and with far less danger. The metals I should think likely to lead to ugly accidents in such a use. The hydroxides would, I think, have little effect on bony tissue, fats would be saponified, and other organic matter in general would be disintegrated by them."

We had hoped to have access to the official publication of the entire transactions of the Congress, but owing to delays of various kinds it has not yet been published — *Dental Review*.

Editorial.

The Horace Wells Celebration.

A very interesting meeting in honor of the memory of Dr. Horace Wells will be held in Philadelphia on the 11th of next month. Prof. Thos. Fillebrown, of Boston, is to read a paper on the "History of Anæsthesia," and Prof. James E. Garretson on the "Benefits of Anæsthesia to Mankind." A banquet, at which there will be appropriate addresses, will be held, and a souvenir volume of the event will be issued. It is further proposed that at the meeting, subscriptions will be invited for a permanent memorial.

We venture to draw attention to the fact that Dr. Wells did not "*discover* the anæsthetic properties of nitrous oxide," though we must admit that, like many others, we have been under the misapprehension that he had the claim of priority. In the *Canada Journal of Dental Science*, in September, 1871, we wrote editorially under this belief, instigated by a meeting of dentists at Hartford, Conn., and the request of the late Dr. J. H. McQuillen. At that time the widow of Dr. Wells was in very poor circumstances, and she had declared that "the discovery of her husband had been to her and her family an unspeakable evil, for it cost the life of her husband, and substituted the *res augusti domi* (scanty fortune) in place of a lucrative profession and a happy home."

Unquestionably, to Horace Wells, then a dentist at Hartford, Conn., is due the inestimable blessing to mankind of the practical application of nitrous oxide. On the evening of December, exactly fifty years ago, Dr. Wells witnessed its administration by Mr. Colton, and observing that one of the patients was unconscious of severe bruises he sustained during the excitement of the anæsthetic, he there and then stated that he believed it could be used for painless extraction. The following day he inhaled it,