

The Maritime Medical News.

November, 1888.

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Information concerning matters of general and local professional interest will be gladly received from our friends everywhere.

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HITHERTO no professional journal has been within reach of the medical men of the Maritime Provinces, which they could regard with any lively sense of interest and ownership.

In introducing the MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS, it is needless to attempt to detail the considerations which we have deemed to justify, if not demand its establishment.

That the clinical experience of these provinces should continue to be unrecorded; that the work done by our City and County Medical Societies should come to the knowledge, alone, of the individual societies; that the lessons taught by localised epidemics, as to their origin, nature, extent, duration, results and prevention, should be unlearned because unheard of; that in view of our local governmental institutions having control of legislations, matters affecting health and life, the medical profession should possess no means of formally and unitedly, (and so influentially) expressing its views; that we should have no organ to give practical recognition and satisfaction to the stake and interest which we have in the knowledge, and experience, and doings of one another; must be regarded, we think, by most as regrettable, and in view of the state of affairs elsewhere, anomalous.

That we in the eastern Canadian Provinces should lack the means of promoting free discussion, mutual enlightenment and friendly unity, which the profession in most quarters takes care to enjoy very fully, will be considered, we believe, a negative evil which defrauds us of many positive benefits.

We are gratified with the prospect that the Journal enjoys, of uniting the active interest of the different provinces. To those who have assisted in giving practical shape to these prospects, we, and the whole constituency of the Journal, owe our cordial appreciation and thanks.

We hope that our readers will believe, and show their appreciation of the fact, that the MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS is their own, for discussion, correspondence, and all the functions which such a Journal may serve.

Though between us are long distances and border lines of provinces, our general aims and interests are identical; our difficulties similar; and our progress will be greater, just and more leavened, if in union.

In the free interchange of ideas and experiences which, we hope, will take place through the columns of the MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS, it is as true that all may teach as that all may learn.

THE fifty-sixth annual meeting of the British Medical Association was held during the second week of August, in Glasgow, and was largely attended.

Prof. W. T. Gairdner, of Glasgow, presided, and delivered an able address entitled, "The Physician as Naturalist." He points out how the physician has been evolved at various times in the past, dwells on the defects of medical education at the present day, and concludes by defending the profession from the charges of atheism.

The address in medicine was delivered by Dr. Allbutt, who took for his theme, "On the Classification of Diseases by Comparative Nosology." He makes free use of the modern doctrine of evolution.

The address in surgery was delivered by Sir George H. B. McLeod. His subject was "The Progress of Surgery during the Last Half Century." His remarks on anæsthetics deserve attention:

"I myself, after fairly trying most of the agents in use, 'now exclusively employ chloroform, and having for years 'kept an accurate record of its administration, and given it 'freely and without stint in all sorts of surgical proceedings, 'never refusing its benefits to a single patient, no matter 'what his condition or the operation to be performed, I never 'had an accident, except when an epileptic took a fit while 'being put under its influence, and died with a full and fixed 'chest. For speed and energy, for ease of application and 'agreeableness, for rapid recovery with little subsequent 'trouble, and for safety, *when properly administered* 'chloroform is, in my opinion, unrivalled. That it needs 'no apparatus but a towel is a great point in its favor. 'This is the record of one who has administered it 'constantly from the time of its introduction into practice, 'and the statement in this sense may not be without its 'value. I never measure the quantity used but exhibit it 'freely, and take the colour of the lips and the respiration 'as my chief guide. Making the patient count at the 'beginning of the administration is a most valuable aid; 'and Nelaton's inversion of the body with artificial 'respiration is, I think, the surest mode of resuscitation in