

In the general profession there have been many evidences of a better condition of things than formerly prevailed—of a greater interest in the scientific side of medicine and a desire not to practice our Art from a purely perfunctory or purely financial point of view. The best evidence of this is the formation of medical societies. These have sprung up on every side—provincial, county and local societies,—and it is most encouraging to observe how actively and energetically many of these are maintained,—good papers read, good discussions held, and a spirit of emulation evinced in correct observation, the thoughtful care of cases, and their systematic and accurate recording. The difficulties encountered in keeping up such societies are often great. Our population is still a mostly scattered one, and members have often to go long distances and sacrifice much time in order to attend: but the gain is worth it all. The best men of every town and every country side will always be found the keenest supporters of their own medical society. Our Canadian physicians, too, are beginning to write more than formerly—not, perhaps, even yet as much or as often as they should—but they maintain medical journals which are alive and active and are a credit to their country and to their contributors. There are now in Canada no less than four English and two French monthly journals, all apparently prosperous. Nor are the contributions of Canadian writers confined to this country. Many of our prominent men are frequent and valued contributors to, and correspondents of, the best of the American journals.

It may be said that, in drawing this comparison between the condition of the profession now and that when this Association began, I have presented an optimistic view and one not altogether warranted by the facts, but I think not so. I believe that, great as has been the progress of science in these years, great as has been the progress of the country in material prosperity, the medical profession may fairly claim that it has not lagged behind: that it has always had such leaders to frame its policy and such earnest and devoted and able men in its schools as have kept it fully abreast of the busy and stirring times in which we live. Has this Association done its share in securing such