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MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1873.

The Meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, which was held at St. John, New Brunswick, on the 8th of last month, was in every respect most satisfactory. It was the first session where all met, feeling that nothing likely to disturb its harmony, or cause acrimonious or sectional feeling, was likely to occur, and where the really legitimate work of the Association was entered upon. Although the full quota of literary food which the members were lead to anticipate was not forthcoming, owing to a circumstance which will we believe not occur again—yet there was sufficient provided to cause those who were in attendance to feel that the Association had at last adopted a programme calculated to induce the thinking and working men of the profession to attend its future meetings. The address of Dr. Botsford, of St. John, N. B., on Hygiene, we are assured, was a report embracing a vast amount of information, and shewing very great research, while the paper on *Surgery* by Dr. Hingston of Montreal, which we will publish in our next number, was one of especial value as regards Canadian Surgery. The attendance from Ontario and Quebec was small—the former Province being represented alone by Dr. Grant of Ottawa—but the profession of the maritime provinces were present in considerable numbers. Of the hospitality of the St. John profession, too much cannot be said. It was lavish in the extreme—one of the most pleasant re-unions being a lunch given at the house of Dr. Bayard—one of the leading physicians of St. John, and an earnest member of the Association. The next meeting will take place in 1874 at Niagara Falls—and the programme of papers announced as in preparation promises that in interest it will excel any former gathering. This, with the magnificent locality chosen for the meeting, will do much to attract a large number. Altogether, we think the literary start which the Association made at Montreal in 1872 was a good one, and if its members are active and energetic, we look for a prosperous career for the Canadian Medical Association.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF ROCKWOOD LUNATIC ASYLUM, KINGSTON, O.

We have received from Dr. Dickson, the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, at Rockwood, near Kingston, his report for the year 1872; it is tersely written, and really is a very able document. We confess to somewhat like amazement, at the improvements he has accomplished, and many of them certainly under great disadvantages. Besides his ability as a medical superintendent, which is admitted by all who know him, the report proves Dr. Dickson, to be equally alive to the interest of his country, as is proved in the following extract:

“Different branches of industry are not only beneficial to the patients in a hygienic point of view, but by utilising the labour of the inmates, I have been able to effect an immense saving to the country, so that by this and other means I have reduced the cost of maintenance of the patients fully thirty-three per cent., and, in addition to all this, the improvement I have effected on the property by the agency of the patients has increased its value four-fold.”

In Ontario, there seems to be the same difficulty in having the wants of lunatics attended to, that we have in the Province of Quebec. A wall commenced three years ago, and completion of which is necessary to allow the female patients to take proper exercise, has according to the report not advanced in the slightest degree for two summers, a condition of things which is but mildly expressed by the term, disgraceful. We trust that the report on this subject will have the effect that it should, and that the next summer will see the exercise ground of the female patients so protected, that all can enjoy and profit in health by it. The report also draws attention to a point which is really so important, that we feel it our duty to say a word or two upon it. It is with reference to the associating criminal lunatics with others who are not criminals, as is now done at Rockwood. Dr. Dickson says:—

“It is the universal opinion of all persons having anything to do with the management of lunatic asylums, that the criminal and non criminal classes of lunatics should never, under any circumstances, be admitted for treatment to the same building. They should never be permitted to commingle, as one vicious criminal lunatic is sufficient to contaminate a whole ward full.

The more rational the ordinary lunatics become, the more safely and easily are they managed; but with the criminal class it is totally different. The more rational they become the more dangerous they become, as they enter into plots to attack their attendants, and devote themselves to plan modes of escape, into both of which they try to enveigle other