

ings were harmonious, and quite a number of interesting papers were read, especially in the Surgical Section. We were, however, sorry to find so many men, principally in the medical section, who were on the programme, as readers of papers, fail to put in an appearance. This is not right. If a member informs the Secretary of his intention to read a paper, he should make a point of being in attendance. The one regret of the meeting was the absence of the majority of the profession of the city in which the meeting was held. Indeed very few put in an appearance. What reason they had for this action is, of course, alone known to themselves. It is true the Association went to Quebec without an invitation, and were, in consequence, quite prepared not to have any public hospitality extended to them. No fault, so far as we heard, was found for this break in the usual programme of the Association. But the absence from its meetings of the Quebec members was so marked as to call forth very general comment. The city, which nineteen years ago was the means of organizing this Association, was hardly expected to all but ignore the fact that it had again returned to the place of its birth. It was a very pleasant feature of the meeting the large number of representatives who were present from the United States, as also was the active part they took in the proceedings. Detroit, Buffalo, Ogdensburg, Portland, and Burlington, Vermont, had some of their ablest men in attendance. Hamilton is the next place of meeting, and we believe the decision is a wise one. Hamilton is centrally situated, and has a body of professional men who will appreciate the advantage of having the Association assemble in their midst. The enthusiasm of those who were present at this last meeting was very marked, and the determination was expressed, not to allow its partial failure to interfere in any way with the future success of the Association.

YELLOW FEVER AND ITS PREVENTION.

In this issue our readers will find a timely and highly important communication on the etiology, and prevention of yellow fever by inoculation. We are indebted to Dr. Gererd, for having prepared it as a special contribution to the RECORD, and to our old friend, Dr. Wolfred Nelson, late of Panama, South America, for its translation.

For many years—1826 to date—the city and Isthmus of Panama have been recognized hotbeds of yellow fever. In 1868 there was a serious

epidemic in the city of Panama. It appeared again as an epidemic in 1880, and it remained endemic and endo-epidemic up to the summer, when, in May and June, it assumed the proportions of an epidemic of the first class, killing forty victims daily. This fact was first announced in the *New York Herald*, and later by the American papers generally in May. Later the *New York Herald* stated that the mortality of forty per diem understated the truth.

The filthy condition of the cities of Panama and Colon, in the American Isthmus, may be imagined, but the reality is almost incredible. The city of Panama—modern Panama—was built in 1688 as a strongly-walled, massively-constructed city. To-day, speaking of it and its suburbs—now extensive—it is without water supply or drainage, properly so-called. Its water is derived from deep wells, built by the early Spaniards, the majority on the outskirts of the suburbs. Three of the argest wells from which watermen purchase water to sell in the city, are at Cocoa Grove. The wells are within three hundred feet of a new cemetery, they are in a ravine many feet below its surface, while they drain a level fully sixty feet below the cemetery. The cemetery is, without exception, the most flourishing bonanza in the Isthmus. The owner of the wells, Senor Don Nicanor Obcarrio, has a special concession from the Government of the State of Panama to bury the dead. Whether they are buried in his cemetery or in the foreign Jewish or Chinese cemeteries he exacts his fee. Regarding the cemetery, at the edge of the wells, between July 15th, 1884 and April 12th, 1886, it had actually received 3,884 bodies for interment in the ground, apart from several hundreds buried in the *bovedas* or stone vaults. In the month of November, 1884, the Canal Company alone buried 652 officers and men on the Isthmus, principally from yellow and malarial fevers, tropical dysentery, &c., &c. The Canal hospitals in Panama have had as many as seventeen deaths in a single day.

Such is Panama, well and fitly named the Gate to the Pacific, by Captain Bedford Pim, R.N., in one of his interesting books. The Isthmus of Panama is a constant producer and distributor of yellow fever. The Mexican West Coast epidemic of 1883 and 1884 was traced to a yellow fever corpse landed by a steamer from Panama.

That death has such a monopoly can easily be understood, when the drainage and water-supply, so-called, are considered. In both Panama and