

I feel, therefore, that we have but to devise some plan of arousing the interest of our brethren in the matter to ensure their support and co-operation.

And now a word or two as to the Federal Health Bill. Thanks to the energetic efforts of the special committee appointed to attend to this matter considerable progress has been made towards the attainment of our desires in this behalf. The interest and sympathy of the Ministers of the Crown have been secured, and the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Fisher, under whose department the matter more directly falls, has taken the matter up most courteously and is thoroughly alive to its urgency and need. For the information of those not familiar with this subject, I would briefly say that the Association, at its meeting in Montreal in 1902, placed itself on record by resolution to the effect that it is expedient that a Department of Public Health be created by the Dominion Government and administered under the authority of one of the existing Ministers of the Crown, thus bringing all general questions relating to sanitary science and public health under one central authority to be known as the Public Health Department. There is no need for me to dwell upon the importance or desirability of this step; it must commend itself to every member of the profession.

Thus far the Government has not seen its way to grant the desired measure. The work is not yet accomplished, and the need of pushing the matter still exists. I sincerely hope the meeting will not dissolve without first passing a strong resolution in favor of the measure, and thus encourage and strengthen the hands of the committee who have this work in hand.

And now I desire to touch upon my third point, which I regard as of the highest importance. I refer here to the Dominion of Canada Medical Act, which was assented to in the Federal House in 1902. We are under a deep debt of gratitude to the members of the special committee, and especially to Dr. T. G. Roddick, for his untiring efforts to get this measure placed upon the statutes of the country, and it is with great regret that I notice so much misapprehension as to the scope and powers of this Bill still exists in certain quarters. It has been thought that it would encroach upon the rights and privileges of the different Provincial Medical Boards and interfere with their autonomy, and I gladly hail this opportunity to say a few words which may help to remove this misapprehension. It was, and is, not in any way intended to interfere with existing provincial rights or in-trench upon the prerogatives of Provincial Medical Boards. As an instance, in my own native Province, Québec, our French-