

In the Medical Section a paper was read by Dr. Atkinson, of Baltimore, upon tachycardia in acute articular rheumatism.

In the discussion, Dr. Orde expressed the opinion that the pneumogastric nerve was particularly affected in rheumatism, and that the peculiarities of the pulse might be accounted for in that way.

The writer has given, in a very brief and imperfect way, a few of the points made at meetings he attended. Where there are so many sections, so many valuable papers are read at the same time that it is only possible for one to hear a very few.

On Wednesday evening, Dr. Weir Mitchell delivered his presidential address on the history of instrumental precision in medicine. As might be expected, the address was remarkable for the research made into old literature, and for its beautiful diction. One has rarely the opportunity of listening to such a charming and interesting paper.

A reception followed, which was largely attended.

On Thursday evening a dinner was held jointly by the Association of Physicians and the Association of Surgeons. Many of the English guests were present, and speeches of a complimentary character were made. Dr. Chiene was loudly applauded when he attributed the great success of the United States to the faith which the individual American had in his country and in his town or village, however small the latter might be. He not only looked upon his own town as the most successful in the Union, but looked upon himself as the principal agent in that success. A little more of the former kind of spirit might be of service in Canada.

The Congress has been a great success—quite equal, if not superior, to the first. There were, however, two drawbacks—the excessive heat and the very great length of some of the papers. To listen to two papers in succession, each of which was over an hour in length, and at the same time to fairly melt at a temperature of over 90°, is more than the average man can endure. When the papers are necessarily so very extensive, it might surely be possible to epitomize so as to bring them down to a reasonable length for reading.

Among the gentlemen present from Toronto

might be mentioned Drs. Reeve, Cameron, Nevitt, Machell, King, and Lehman. Drs. Gairdner, Orde, Sir Wm. MacCormack, Mr. Bryant, and Mr. Durham, were among the foreign guests. J.E.G.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY AS A SPECIALTY.

BY A. B. JUDSON, M.D., NEW YORK.

The President's Address, delivered before the American Orthopedic Association at Washington, D.C., Sept. 22nd, 1891.

A flourishing medical society sometimes divides into sections. It is an involuntary process, or at least one to which the members are forced by the necessity of thoroughly accomplishing the objects of the society. The process may be called an analysis. In the present instance, however, if I understand the organization of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, we have a synthesis. A number of societies voluntarily combine to secure ends which were not contemplated at the beginning of each. A division of labor having been made, according to which each society has its special work to do, it is proper and useful for the societies to meet together for co-operation. Let us, therefore, briefly consider some of the salient features which mark our specialty of orthopedic surgery. A better knowledge of ourselves will put us in more quick relation with other workers, both general and special, and enable us better to do our humble part in the grand plan.

In common with other specialists, we occasionally hear that we are limited in the possible range of our achievements. The limitation is, however, entirely voluntary, and the work within these limits is practically inexhaustible. If we were not so busy, we might perchance be troubled because we are not always and exactly understood. The sign before an orthopedic hospital in New York is supposed, by some of the passers-by, to indicate a homœopathic institution. I am probably not alone in having been asked to perform the minor surgical operations of the chiropodist. Many, even among the learned, suppose that the latter part of our name is derived from the Latin word for *foot*, instead of from the Greek for *child*. We are also confounded in the minds of some with the instrument makers. I mention these things