

be removed from the skin, without causing pain, when this agent is used.

Cocaine is an alkaloid obtained from the erythroxyton coca. It is a strong base, uniting with acids to form salts.*

DR. WORKMAN.

We are pleased to notice that our esteemed friend Dr. Workman was made an honorary member of the Phreniatric Society of Italy, in September, 1883, also an honorary member of the British Medico-Psychological Association, in July, 1884.

Dr. Workman is acknowledged by all to be the leading Alienist of Canada. We take it that he honours those foreign societies by his membership as much as they honour him in conferring this distinction.

It is pleasing to see one who has always been such a true friend to the profession, such a straightforward and conscientious worker in his specialty, receiving, although late in life, the highest distinctions which can be conferred upon him.

MR. LAWSON TAIT AND SIR SPENCER WELLS.

It was thought by some that Mr. Tait, in his address on Abdominal Surgery, which first appeared in this journal, was rather severe in his criticisms of Sir Spencer Wells' statements and methods. The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* went so far as to say that Tait's chief aim was to castigate Spencer Wells. Mr. Tait has kindly forwarded to us a copy of his reply, which we publish with pleasure in this issue. To those who have been in London it is well known that Sir Spencer and his friends have for years been saying very harsh things about both Mr. Tait's methods and his private character. While we regret the tone which each adopts towards the other, we think it is hardly to be wondered at that Mr. Tait should show some bitterness towards the distinguished surgeon who has so frequently treated him in a very contemptuous manner.

MEDICAL SCHOOL DINNERS IN TORONTO.

The annual dinners, as is well known, have become an established institution in connection with the medical schools in Toronto, and this year were exceedingly successful in all respects.

The Toronto School dinner was held in the Rossin House on the 12th Nov. Dr. Bascom occupied the important position of chairman, and won golden opinions from all by the grace and ability he exhibited. The vice-chairmen were Messrs. Forster and Thistle. Mr. H. J. Hamilton was secretary of the committee. Dr. Martin responded for the graduates, Mr. Hutton for the graduating class, Mr. McCassey for the freshmen, and Mr. Mullock for the ladies. The students' speeches were excellent. Among those which were received with great enthusiasm were the addresses of representative students of Trinity, Queen's, and the London Schools. It is always a matter of regret that these toasts come on so late in the evening. Would it not be well to reduce the number of toasts proposed?

The speeches, on the whole, were above the average for after-dinner speeches. Drs. W. T. Aikins and Richardson responded for the Toronto Faculty, Dr. Grasett for the Trinity Faculty, Dr. O'Reilly for the Toronto General Hospital, and Dr. Barrett for the Woman's Medical College.

Among the invited guests who spoke were: His Honor the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario; His Worship the Mayor; Professor Ramsay Wright; Mr. Buchan; Mr. Clark, M.P.P.; Rev. Father Teefy; Rev. Dr. McVicar; Dr. Eccles, of London; Rev. Dr. Stone, and others. While the speeches were all good, there were too many of them, if it be possible to have too many of such *good things*. Among the spectators were many ladies, who appeared to enjoy the proceedings very much.

It was remarked by several that this was the most successful dinner ever given by the Toronto School of Medicine.

The Trinity School dinner was held in the Rossin House on the 20th of November, there being a large number present. Mr. P. A. Dewar

* See communications from Drs. Reeve, Ryerson, and Rosebrugh.