

tended that the proceedings have often been delayed until a chance comer should enter to complete the quorum, and this even with the small number required to form such quorum, which was reduced on purpose to meet like contingencies. Even this small quorum sometimes cannot be had, for lately the meeting was called with a resulting attendance of the President, Secretary, two gentlemen who were to read papers, and one other member. Surely this is too bad, for elsewhere in country places, where societies exist, their members travel considerable distances to attend the meetings of their society and partake freely in its discussions. Montreal which is supposed to be the head of the Dominion in all matters, hardly furnishes sufficient medical men who maintain an interest in the working of its medical association, and but few of the senior members of the profession ever put in an appearance at its meetings. How many previous associations have existed in Montreal we have not made out, owing to the paucity of reports obtained in the medical periodicals of the past; but we trust that the present association will institute full reports of proceedings, so that the future inquirer into such histories may have extended facts to guide him.

Twenty-five years ago Montreal could boast of two societies, a Medico-Chirurgical and Pathological, and among the names of their officers we find many who are still active and well known among us to-day. We are surprised that they should have suffered the society to lapse, seeing that they have been active in promoting those which have been subsequently formed. In August, 1865, a society was again established with the old title of Medico-chirurgical; Dr. G. W. Campbell being its first President. To combine both sections of the profession, the officers were chosen from the English and French members, and it was permissible to use either language, and many valuable communications were brought before the Society. We notice in the report read at the annual meeting, held on the 15th of January, 1866, that there were 80 physicians practicing in Montreal at that time, about half of whom were members, and the hope was expressed that all would be included by the next annual meeting. At that meeting Dr. Hingston was elected President for the following year, but that year was barren of result; owing, no doubt, mainly to the

difficulties which arose from the use of both languages. The society soon ceased to exist.

Another effort was made to establish a society, and, on the 12th of November, 1870, the present Medico-Chirurgical Society was ushered into existence. It has survived four years, and during that time many valuable papers have been read, and subsequently published in the medical journals. During the first three years the meetings commanded a good attendance, but the past year has shown a falling-off in attendance and great lack of interest until it has reached the result of being unable at times to obtain a quorum. Even at the annual meeting the attendance was smaller than what might be expected and leads to the impression that this society will also be soon numbered with the past. We hope not, however, but trust that each and all will deem it their duty to attend regularly and take part in the proceedings; and that there should be no difficulty in getting papers, it should be the pleasure of each member to carefully prepare one, so as to be ready when his turn comes. Heretofore, the Secretary has had difficulty in inducing members to give papers, and when some of them have been brought before the society, the reader has excused deficiencies on account of the hurried manner in which the paper was prepared. This is not what should be expected; if hurriedly written they do not reflect credit on the reader, nor do they command the attention of his hearers, and thus interest is lost in the society. We trust that a new life and energy will be infused into the Society, and in future its meetings will be characterized by discussions worthy of the position which the city and its physicians occupy in the Dominion and thus set an example to other associations. At the annual meeting, which occurred on the 16th of October last, Dr. Hingston, the retiring President, delivered the usual address, which embraced many of the questions now agitating the scientific and literary world. As this address will be published in our next, we forbear making any remarks upon it. At its conclusion Dr. Hingston received a vote of thanks for his valuable paper, and also for his conduct in the chair during the past year. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Dr. Reddy; 1st Vice, Dr. Godfrey; 2nd Vice, Dr. Craik; Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Roddick. Council, Drs. Hingston, Fenwick and Gardner.