

engage the attention of this Convention is Medical education. To the position to which I have drawn your attention, a position of influence so great, of importance so deep, there attaches a very grave and serious responsibility. It becomes necessary, therefore, that we should by combination and co-operation with each other, adopt such a course as will give to those who are entering upon our profession, the high qualifications and high attainments so necessary to the proper discharge of duties of so important and noble a character. The subject of Medical education therefore, is a subject which will engage the serious attention of the Convention. Every member has the deepest interest in knowing that the qualifications of those who are to come after him shall be of the very highest character that it is possible to attain. In proportion as medical men are qualified for the performance of their duties will they deserve and receive the confidence of the public. The subject of a proper system of registration of medical men is of less importance to the members of the medical profession than to the community at large. We owe it to our fellow-men to provide some means whereby the great mass of the people may rightly distinguish between those qualified for the duties of the profession and those unqualified. If such means be not devised, injurious consequences affecting the health and happiness of the people would result. Then again the question of medical ethics, the question of the relation of professional men to each other, and to those who entrust themselves to their professional care, is also a subject which will be brought under the notice of this Convention. I do not think that any elaborate code of medical ethics is required. I believe a profession such as ours, so learned, liberal and exalted, and exposed as we are to difficulties inseparable from the practice of a profession like our own, which has no public tribunal to which appeal can be made—the only true code of ethics is attention to the golden rule, "Do unto others as we wish to be done by." (Loud cheers.) The professional man who stands by that golden rule will exhibit in all his dealings, both with his professional brethren and the community at large, the character of the true gentleman, and will require little else, I believe, for his guidance. Before I sit down, I will make a few observations in relation to the great importance of unanimity in our proceedings. There is an old saying—I wish I could say it was an old slander—that "doctors differ." While we know that it is impossible for men to see eye to eye in every matter, and to hold precisely the same views, yet I do feel that, in view of the high position of this Association, and the important objects we seek to attain, it is one of its first duties to give a gentlemanly and generous consideration to each other's opinions, whether we differ from them or not. The only way to make this organization a success is by conceding, as much as possible, to those differences of opinion which must necessarily exist in the discussion of those matters to which we are called to give attention. I wish to say that the eyes of this Dominion are upon us. Our meetings will result in good or evil, just according to the spirit that we enter upon the discussion of those difficult questions, and the amount of accord and agreement that may prevail amongst us. I will not detain you longer. I feel most deeply your kindness in elevating me to the high position of your President;

and I wish to say, before retiring from this chair, that I retire to the rank of a private member with a disposition to return your kindness and consideration, by doing in that private capacity, or in whatever position I may occupy, all in my power to advance the objects of this Association, and the profession, which I regard as more important than any other secular calling. I beg to thank you most kindly for the great honor conferred upon me, and will take more pleasure in sustaining some other person in the chair than I have had in occupying it.

The honorable gentleman concluded his address amid loud cheers.

REPORTS.

The Treasurer's report was read and referred to the following committee on Accounts: Dr. Rottot, Dr. Richardson and Dr. Steeves.

Dr. W. CANNIFF read the report of the committee on the Plan of Organization. On motion of Dr. Smallwood, it was decided to have this report printed in English and French, and distributed for the use of members before action be taken on it.

Dr. MARSDEN, of Quebec, chairman of the committee on Medical Ethics, presented his report, recommending the adoption of a code of ethics substantially the same as that adopted by the American Medical Association.

A brief discussion ensued.

Dr. FENWICK argued that medical men should refuse to give information to Life Insurance Companies respecting the health of their patients unless that information be considered strictly confidential.

At the suggestion of the President, the debate was adjourned till to-day, to enable members to look over the report.

On motion of Dr. BEAUBIEN, the Convention then adjourned till 3 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention resumed its sitting at 3 o'clock.

Dr. MARSDEN read the report of the committee on Registration of Medical Men, recommending the Association to take steps to secure the passage of an Act of the Dominion Parliament similar to the Medical Act of Great Britain, passed in 1858. The report was received and laid over till to-day.

PRELIMINARY EDUCATION.

Dr. HOWARD read the following report on Preliminary Education:

The committee on Preliminary Examinations beg to submit the following recommendations:

1. That all persons intending to study medicine in the Dominion of Canada be required to pass a matriculation examination in preliminary education, and that their professional education shall be held to commence from the time of their having passed matriculation examination.
2. That the matriculation examination for students in medicine in the Dominion of Canada shall be (with some alterations to be presently mentioned) that recommended by the Council of Medical Education and Registration of Great Britain, and adopted in the amended Medical Act of Upper Canada, and shall be as follows:

"Compulsory English or French language, including grammar and composition; Arithmetic,