

the science, culture and civilization of its people, felt it was their duty to exhibit that spirit of unity and friendly intercourse characteristic of their profession, that the time had arrived to collect and utilize the stores of science of so extensive a territory, and lay

THE FOUNDATION OF THIS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, which would be representative in character, and add to the general stock of knowledge, and under whose protective influence the power of the profession would be increased, extended, and its members afforded an opportunity to know and respect each other. Animated thus by no selfish or sectional motives, it gave its first fruits generously to strengthen and adorn the new nation—so that, gentlemen, when we meet for professional advantages, we also commemorate an important national epoch and afford, an opportunity not frequently enough given, to assemble where no religious, sectional, social nor political prejudices can be tolerated. Two principal objects, gentlemen, remind us in each revolving year, to attend these meetings, 1st, Social friendly intercourse—this must, to the profession of Canada, for many years to come, be the most potent attraction. We, by a very large majority, belong to the class called general practitioners. A brilliant, but, unfortunately, very small minority of specialists, add a more scientific tone to our meetings, and shed lustre on our proceedings, but the attendance must for some time to come be recruited from the ranks of the general profession, and to none is the summons more agreeable, for none toil more faithfully and constantly than we. How gladly, then, must we hail the announcement of this meeting. What a splendid excuse to give to exacting patients; how delicious to one this pleasant, social intercourse, how cooling to our brain, and how refreshing to have some sympathetic ear to listen to our troubles, doubts and perplexities; with what zest we enjoy the hospitalities of the profession in each locality, how necessary it is to keep one's mind, as it should be, broad, free and liberal. Yes, gentlemen, self-conceit, egotism and narrow-minded bigotry are the products of isolation, reserve and privacy; without some variety we degenerate into mere creatures of routine. On the other hand,

THIS FRATERNAL INTERCOURSE

enlarges the mind, dispels prejudices, cultivates charity and humility, and develops that genial, warm-hearted philanthropy that makes the physi-

cian, as he should be, the highest example of intellectual, moral and social culture. Other professions admit of opportunities for display, with all the brilliant accessories of forum, court or pulpit, but medicine offers no such arena. It belongs to private life. Weary with toil, watching and anxiety the physician has no sympathizing audience to cheer him on, no brilliant assemblage to arouse his enthusiasm or applaud his acts. Many of his deeds which, if publicly exhibited, would delight and charm and bring him honour and fame, are performed in the quiet stillness of the night in some low, dingy tenement, his audience often an old crone who, in the fullness of her heart, may exclaim, "Well done, doctor: I always thought you were lucky!" Really, we should be disposed to pardon some infractions of that rigid etiquette which forbids him to use the publicity of the secular press so freely allowed to every other profession. To those who have passed through such scenes, what a great relief it is to come here and renew old friendships, form new ones, relate the cases we have had and the wonderful recoveries effected, so often told that we believe them ourselves. How joyfully we return home and how refreshed and invigorated we pick up our work, and go on our way rejoicing. Yet another, and more important, attraction, brings us to this meeting, viz: scientific progress—to communicate the results of our observations, the aims and objects of our labors, the interchange of experience, our ideas on the various professional subjects to which we have given thought and time, our opinions on the truth of the various theories advanced, contributing by articles or discussions, stimulating the growth of a spirit of research, observation and experiment, which may bring fame to ourselves, honor to our country, or add to the general stock of knowledge. True we may have no new theories to propound, discoveries to announce, nor principles to enunciate, yet do we add to the general advance.

THE HISTORY OF ALL PROGRESS

in science teaches that the labors of many minds, for many years, are necessary for the discovery of any truth, and although one gets the honor, yet are the works of many indispensable to him whose good fortune it is to crown the work. Galileo, Kepler, Bacon, preceded Newton. Priestly, Galvani, Volta, Lavoisier, led up to the great chemical discoveries of Davy. Sylvius, Fabricius, and, above all, the monk Michael Serectus, did as important service