

We are now entering upon the second full year in our history, and we have every reason to feel encouraged on account of the progress already made. The number and variety of the specimens presented at our monthly meetings would compare favorably with older societies in much larger cities.

It is also a subject for congratulation that some of our members have had the time and energy to devote themselves to original research, and that they have freely given us the result of their labors. It is felt, however, that in this department only a beginning has been made, and that nothing short of a continuous rate of progress will satisfy us. In this comparatively young country, and in a city which only a few years ago completed the fiftieth year of its existence, we must naturally expect many obstacles and discouragements in prosecuting the study of pathology, a science which cannot be regarded as popular. I wish very briefly to take into consideration some of these difficulties, and make a few suggestions as to their removal.

It will be impossible for us to make much progress as a society, especially in the domain of original investigation, unless we can in some way or other have two or three professional men in our membership who can devote their whole time to this branch.

So far we are indebted to two of our members, Dr. A. B. McCallum and Dr. Caven. Dr. McCallum has been kind enough to examine specimens and make reports when the work required was not quite in his line. We sincerely hope that he will continue to give us this advantage of his rare gifts and attainments. If, however, at any time he should engage in a course of study more intimately associated with his work as a lecturer, we might be to a great extent deprived of his valuable assistance.

Dr. Caven has not yet received a reward commensurate with his work, and we cannot expect to always continue under such disadvantages.

Some members of our society who have recently commenced practice have done excellent work—with them, however, as with others before them, when patients become more numerous, their time will be so taken up with clinical work that they will not have much leisure to devote to original investigation.

It is, therefore, in my opinion, necessary in order to advance the science of pathology that we should have at least two men who are sufficiently well paid to devote their whole time and energy to this subject—one to take up general pathology, including pathological histology, and the other to confine himself to bacteriology.

I do not think it would be difficult to convince our Provincial Government of the great necessity of establishing a bacteriological laboratory in connection with the Provincial Board of Health, which should be superintended by a thoroughly competent man, whose salary should be paid out of provincial funds.

Really, a board of health is very much cramped in its operations without such a laboratory. The testing of drinking-water cannot now be properly made without examination for germs. Enquiries into the origin and progress of epidemics cannot be properly made without the aid of a competent bacteriologist. Then, it must be remembered that these minute beings attack and destroy the lives of domestic animals, trees, and plants, and that their discovery might lead to the adoption of measures which would result in the saving of thousands of dollars to our country.

If these and similar arguments were used, our legislators would see the great advantage to the country of such an institution. They would only have to refer to countries in Europe to find out that every large health board has such a laboratory connected with it.

If these views should meet with your approval, it might be well for us as a society, or as individual members, to lend our assistance to the Provincial Board of Health in their endeavors to carry on this work.

The presence in this city of a thoroughly competent bacteriologist, who could devote his whole time to that science, would be of immense benefit to us. So many pathological processes are in some way connected with the presence of bacteria that we ought always to have some authority to whom we could refer.

I propose to separate it from pathology, as there is in it sufficient scope for the abilities, energies, and the whole time of any one engaged in it.

There are two or three different ways in which we can assist the professor of pathology in his work.