

and Associations in Montreal should be amalgamated, has been revived by Sir Wm. Dawson, in the interest of the Natural History Society of this city, which is proposed as the nucleus or central society about which the others are to cluster.

There are in Montreal not a few groups working in the directions indicated, but when the commercial progress and importance of the city, and the high reputation it enjoys for physical culture, are considered, it is discouraging to contemplate the lack of intellectual culture which is exhibited, if this may be judged by any external manifestations. The attendance at lectures or the more serious class of entertainments, which in other cities attract crowds of interested listeners, is so meagre as to imply apathy, if not ignorance. If the membership rolls of the various societies be carefully examined, the same names will be found in several and the total extremely small. Under these circumstances it is evident that if some scheme could be devised by which the scattered groups could be brought into harmonious and concentrated action, much good would result.

There is at present not a little rivalry, almost amounting to jealousy, and nothing could be done without mutual concessions. An entirely new society or association should be organised and all the old ones merged in it; one permanent and paid officer would be sufficient to collect all dues and issue all notices, and the absurd multiplication of offices which exists in some societies at present should be dispensed with—too often the office honours the man, not the man the office. Each section might have one officer, and these in turn would form a board of direction. At first rooms might be rented and plainly furnished, and if the association were a success it would grow in time. Until some such scheme could be elaborated and put in practice the various societies might experiment by having one paid official who would collect their dues and do the clerical work, such as addressing notices of meeting.