

nate cases of eczema yield to a complete change of diet that was only temporary. With regard to milk diet in eczema, he formerly believed in it, but found many patients could not take it. He had tried it on himself, and found he was unable to stand it for more than a few days. The excessive amount of skin disease in Germany could be accounted for by the habitual use of cabbage and beer as articles of diet. He found beer very injurious in inflammatory skin affections, much more so, indeed, than whiskey. Rhubarb and soda he regarded of great use, but are prescribed too much in a routine manner in dispensaries and hospitals. One must always treat each particular case, remembering that what is suitable treatment in one case may be positively injurious in another patient with the same disease.

Dr. Howard, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Fox, referred to the great privilege the Society had enjoyed in so being brought in contact with a man of such extensive experience. In Dr. Fox's paper there was nothing new, and in saying this he paid him the highest possible compliment, for the whole tendency of his paper was to illustrate the great scientific truth that in medicine we cannot treat the disease. We must treat the individual, the constitution. He was struck by the effect of change of diet, as shown by the numerous examples quoted by the previous speakers in breaking up the sequence of disease; one speaker even advising the use of peaches as an article of diet.

Dr. Hingston seconded the motion. In the course of a few happy remarks he referred to the effect that the present fishery dispute might have in lessening the supply of a wholesome article of food in the American market.

It was then moved by Dr. Trenholme, seconded by Dr. Laphorn Smith, that Dr. Fox be made an honorary member of the Society. This was carried unanimously.

The London *Lancet* defines "moderate drinking" as that which is indulged in to the extent that the individual has a clean tongue, a good appetite, a slow pulse, a cool skin, a clear head, a steady hand, good walking power, and light, refreshing sleep.

Correspondence.

To the Editors of the CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.

MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION.

DEAR SIRS,—In the July number of your valuable journal I notice that the Committee appointed to consider the above subject brought in a report remarkable alike for its diction and its import. Moreover, strange as it may seem, this report was adopted by the Ontario Medical Association without a dissenting voice.

That any body of intelligent men, such as the members of the Ontario Medical Association undoubtedly are, could, in cold blood, devote certain of their number to the "duty" of considering "appeals from members of the Association who may consider themselves persecuted by unfounded or malicious accusations," must, I fear, remain as a blot upon the medical record of this fair Jubilee year.

How can these gentlemen be expected to faithfully discharge the "duty" devolving upon them as members of this Committee? What inducement is there? It cannot be a monetary consideration, for no provision for remuneration is made. The fees of expert witnesses are not tempting, and no amount of money can repay a man for the wear, tear, and swear which cases of litigation involve. Honor? Too often even the best men cut but a sorry figure before the examining lawyer, and though we know the peacemakers are "blessed," we have always been led to believe that he who endeavors to conciliate two angry disputants (who may be both equally wrong), is invariably rewarded by the abuse of both, unalloyed with the honor of either. Can it be for "diversion?" Most of the members of this Committee are staid and dignified elderly gentlemen who abhor publicity, and have always studiously avoided anything approaching wrangling. Not having found a sufficient motive so far, I must conclude that these gentlemen are expected to assume this onerous and exceedingly disagreeable "duty" at great sacrifice of time and money, from motives of pure and disinterested love of the profession generally, and of those who "consider themselves persecuted" in particular.