

Medical College, and students respectively. "Our Faculty" was responded to by Drs. Aikins, Barrett and Richardson. The Medical Council was ably represented by Dr. Burns. The Learned Professions was responded to by Rev. Dr. Wild and Dr. Tye, of Thamesville. The latter made a most excellent speech, but as the evening was now far advanced no report was made for the press. The "Toronto General Hospital," replied to by Dr. O'Reilly, and the "Ladies," by Mr. Patterson, brought the evening's entertainment to a close. At both dinners a number of songs were interspersed among the speeches, and an Italian string band discoursed appropriate music.

The annual dinner of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Kingston, was held on the 24th ult., and was a most successful gathering, a large number of the dignitaries of the limestone city being present.

SANITARY REFORM.

The subject of public health and sanitary reform is one which requires to be kept constantly before the profession and the public, until some efficient legislative measures are secured from the Government. It is a question of such vital interest to the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the nation, that it should take precedence of every other consideration. All merely political questions should be laid aside, in view of the great and inestimable importance of a question which has for its objects the life and health of the people. It is clearly one of the first duties of a Government to provide the means, wherever practicable, for the amelioration of the condition of the people, whether in the matter of sickness, distress by water or fire, or other public calamity. The members of the medical profession have been, we may say, so far, almost the only individuals who have interested themselves in the matter of public health. They have at no time, when a favorable opportunity presented itself, shown any indifference, inactivity, or want of appreciation in regard to measures having this object in view, but on the contrary have, from time to time, and in various ways, urged upon the Governments, Federal and Provincial, the importance of preventive measures. It is not a little singular, that in all countries physicians have been

foremost in urging upon the people and the authorities, the necessity for general systematic means for the prevention of sickness and the preservation of life. It is indeed almost entirely owing to the indefatigable efforts of the profession, that means to this end have been carried out in any country. But from whatever cause, whether or not the members of the profession in this country have been less importunate in this behalf, than those in Great Britain, Europe, or the United States, we are very far behind these countries in the efforts employed for promoting public health. We do not believe it would be in the least degree inimical to the interest of the profession in this country, if there were established upon a proper basis, a well organized sanitary system for the Dominion; on the contrary, such a system would add materially to the value of professional services, and place the profession itself on a higher level in public estimation than it occupies at present. It would be infinitely better in more respects than one, for municipalities and governments to employ medical men to give a portion of their time to the prevention of disease, than for the public to employ them for the cure of diseases which have for the most part been caused by the neglect of the most simple laws of health. Besides, the lessening of preventable sickness, is a much more worthy and dignified employment than the curing of it. We trust that the profession will lose no opportunity of urging upon the various Governments of the day, the very great necessity of thoroughly organized Sanitary Boards,—a Federal Board or Department for the Dominion, and a Provincial Board in each of the Provinces. The expenses of these Boards need not be very large at first. For the Province of Ontario, the annual expenditure need not exceed the sum of \$4,000 or \$5,000. In New York State the annual appropriation for this purpose is \$20,000. In Michigan, \$6,000. In Vermont and New Hampshire, the amount is somewhat less, but quite sufficient for the purpose of initiating the work. With the view of bringing this matter again under the notice of the Ontario Government, we have been solicited to enclose blank petitions to all our subscribers, with a request that they will not only sign the petitions themselves, but obtain as many signatures as they conveniently can, of prominent public men and others who may sympathize with the movement. The petitions when filled up should be returned to