

Dr. FENWICK seconded the resolution, bearing testimony to the value of Dr. David's services.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was also proposed to the Natural History Society for the use of their rooms.

The PRESIDENT, before putting the resolution, said that he wished to return to the Association his very sincere thanks for the honor they had conferred upon him in electing him their President. When he came to Montreal on the present occasion he had not the slightest idea that so great an honour would have devolved upon him, inasmuch as when he entered the room yesterday he saw the "household gods," as he might term them, of the profession assembled, and inasmuch as he knew that Montreal was the great metropolitan centre, as far as the profession of medicine was concerned, in the whole Dominion of Canada. He felt proud that a young country such as we had; young, it was true, but extensive as to territory, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, should have men who take a prominent part in the profession of medicine. He regretted that the honor had not devolved upon some individual who would have been better able to have performed the functions of President of so distinguished a body than himself. He felt, however, that, although young in years, he should endeavor to do the utmost he could in order to give the Society, as far as possible, a return for the confidence they had placed in him. He was exceedingly pleased that Dr. Hingston had thought fit to move in a direction, which he was satisfied would be materially conducive to the prosperity of the Association. He knew perfectly well that since the British Association was inaugurated, no department had taken a more prominent position than that in connection with medicine. They were well aware that they could only judge as to the advance in the various departments of medicine by the ideas brought out by the men who were leaders in their various departments, and which were admirably explained in the addresses delivered such as those given during the meeting at Birmingham. He was perfectly satisfied that by the addresses to be given next year, as specified in the resolution of Dr. F. W. Campbell, great good would be done not only to themselves as a body in this Dominion, not only in advancing the material interests of the Association, but at the same time in showing to their brethren on the other side of the line, that we were a progressive people, so far as the profession of medicine was concerned, and that in the Dominion of Canada we were determined to keep pace with the times. (Applause.) And more than that, their brethren on the other side of the Atlantic would feel proud to render them any assistance they could when called upon to co-operate with them in the hope that the day was not far distant when they would not only be a united body throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, but also in the United States and Great Britain, so that they might take the position their profession deserved from one end of the universe to the other. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT then appointed Drs. Hingston, Marsden, Campbell and Trentolme, Montreal, and

Dr. Hodder, of Toronto, a deputation to the American Medical Association.

Dr. HAMILTON suggested that the Association should petition Parliament in favor of establishing inebriate asylums.

Dr. MARSDEN thought that that was a subject which should be discussed at the beginning of a meeting, and not at the end of one.

The matter then dropped, and the Association closed its deliberations.

Progress of Medical Science.

DR. RICORD ON SYPHILIS.

(Meeting of the British Medical Association at Birmingham, August, 1872.)

In the Surgery Section a paper was read by Mr. Acton, M.R.C.S. Lond., on the Treatment of Syphilis.

The Chairman (Sir W. Fergusson) then introduced Dr. Ricord, of Paris, who received a hearty welcome from the meeting.

Dr. RICORD, after acknowledging the reception which had been accorded him, said he had not prepared an address, as he had not come with the intention of speaking; but Mr. Acton had caught him and obliged him to speak, which was a trick. (Laughter.) He had come to listen and to learn, but not to teach. However, he must say something, though there was no necessity for him to say much, as Mr. Acton had so nearly stated his views and his mode of treatment that there was very little for him to add. There was one great question in regard to syphilis, and it was this: could it be cured radically? In former times all venereal affections, no matter what, were considered as belonging to syphilis, and certainly there was then an immense number of radical cures by mercury or any other means. In this way swellings of the glands, soft chancres, even warts, and other things not belonging to syphilis, were easily enough cured, radically cured; and there were no after-consequences, no secondary symptoms. This explanation would account for the immensely large number of cases of (reputed) syphilis which used to be radically cured. But, since syphilis had been correctly diagnosed, the inquiry to which he had devoted a large part of his life was to see what belonged to syphilis, and what resembled it without belonging to it. There had been great differences in the results of treatment—so much so that a doubt, as Mr. Acton had said, had arisen whether real syphilis could be cured. That doubt as to the curability of syphilis was not recent; it was a doubt which old authors had expressed; and one particularly, with a curious name, which they would probably remember—"Mercurialis"—thought that now and then an armistice might probably be made with syphilis, but that there was no real cure. In fact, they frequently saw that a long time—months,—years—after the symptoms had been treated new symptoms appeared. And so the doubt whether syphilis could be radically cured, or whether the cure was only temporary, with