

benefits? First, I may name the social element or benefit, and to me this is a pleasant one. Day after day we are busy at work. If we see each other, as we are swiftly driven past, it is simply to give the friendly nod. How cold and formal it often is. Engrossed, as we are, by the cares, perchance, of the patient we are going to see, it may be given without hardly knowing who it was intended for. If we saw no more of the mass of our fellow-practitioners, what an ice clad lot we would be! But the ten or twenty minutes' chat, which takes place once every two weeks while we are assembling, serves to break down barriers, to make us known to each other, and the social element of our nature is developed, and even this, gentlemen, is something worth living for. Then we have the exhibition of pathological specimens, and their explanation by our mutual friend, Dr. Osler. Gentlemen, I consider that this Society is indebted, greatly indebted, to Dr. Osler for these exhibitions, which in my opinion, have, since their introduction, doubled the value of these meetings. If nothing else was done but to examine the pathological specimens, and listen to the clear descriptions by Dr. Osler, it would repay even a long walk to be present. Then we have the reading of papers, and that this Society has produced many papers of interest, and some of more than ordinary interest, will, I am sure, be admitted by us all. Surely, listening to the various papers cannot be devoid of interest, and either from the paper itself, or from the discussion which follows, some useful hint may be derived. The preparation of a paper involves often considerable labor. It would be a good thing if we could always bear this fact in mind, for it would then strike us most naturally that a good audience is an encouragement to still further labor, while, on the contrary, the reading of a paper which has cost much time and thought to a bare quorum has a chilling effect upon any further productions from the same quarter. If this fact was remembered, perhaps some would even put themselves to a little inconvenience to be present at our meetings. The discussion on papers seems to me peculiarly valuable in training the mind to rapid thought, and in time giving all those who take part in it full confidence, whereby they speak more deliberately, arrange what they have to say in better

order, and when they have done know what they have said.

The retiring President, my friend, Dr. Fenwick, in his parting address made some suggestions which are I think worthy of the serious consideration of this Society. We now number about sixty members, and his suggestion that we should have a room entirely our own, which could be used as a reading room, (he and myself supplying reading matter from our Exchanges) is quite feasible, and I would suggest that this evening some action be taken in the matter. Perhaps the form it had better take would be the appointing of a committee to make all necessary enquiries.

Another use to which I hope to see this Society put before my term of office expires is that of mutually protecting each other. No profession is so systematically swindled as is our own. We are called hither and thither, by night and by day, but when payment is asked, we see them no more. They find another as ready to accept them as we have been, and as others were before us. The plan proposed to be adopted by this Society, viz., that of having what may be termed a "black list" for the use of our members, will I hope do much to lessen this evil, which, if the experience of others is similar to my own, must be characterised as gigantic. Now, gentlemen, I think I have said sufficient to show you that this Society deserves the hearty and personal support of every member of the profession in our city, and I trust that our meetings during the coming year will be largely attended, and that much important work will be accomplished. The remarks I have made concerning the absence of some whose presence with us I think we have a right to expect I have uttered simply because I think it right it should be known that among many there has been a feeling of very deep regret that our meetings have not been more largely and regularly attended by those who by age and ripe experience are so well qualified to add to the interest of our gatherings. On my part, gentlemen, I can assure you nothing will be wanting to make the year we are now entering upon thoroughly successful. Your assistance is, however, necessary for its full accomplishment. I feel sure I will receive it.