

note the frequent meetings of various territorial medical societies, that they are well attended, thoughtful papers read, keen discussion follows. All this cannot fail to elevate the profession, to raise it in public estimation, convincing them that its members are not merely bread-and-butter earners, but scientific, enlightened men, ever seeking light, ever striving for the truth.

It is rarely that the president is not called upon to notice the decease of some prominent member of the association. This year, I grieve to say, our losses by death have been unusually numerous and sad. Only two years ago Dr. Lachlan Macfarlane occupied the presidential chair, charming us all by his manly dignity and kindliness. Struck down in the vigor of health, in the performance of his duty, by the poison of a case of gangrene, absorbed from a slight puncture with a needle, in the successful effort to save by operation the life of a poor hospital patient, his sudden removal creates a gap not easily to be filled. If, when a soldier risks his life in carrying a disabled comrade out of action, and therefore is decorated with the Victoria cross, we rejoice at the bravery that called for such reward, ought we not to highly honor the memory of one of our profession who quite as bravely lost his life in the performance of duty, by unavoidable mischance?

Two others, earnest workers and office-bearers in the past in this association also, have passed away in the full vigor of manhood and in the height of their professional career. Dr. K. N. Fenwick was another victim of blood poisoning under very similar circumstances to those of Dr. Macfarlane. A slight cut of the finger while operating on a case of septic peritonitis, and within a week the poison had accomplished its deadly work. His memory will long be cherished in Kingston and its vicinity. Dr. H. J. Sanders, also of Kingston, succumbed to an attack of septic pneumonia, the sequelæ of a septic throat. A hard worker in the actual practice of his profession, painstaking, thorough, he kept himself in touch with every advance of medicine. Much beloved by all who sought his advice and aid, in his death our association suffers a severe loss.

Turning for a brief period to medical topics specially affecting us in this province, I note two that have lately provoked a good deal of discussion. Matriculation in medicine in Ontario has lately been in an anomalous state. The Medical Council, in requiring a special certificate and none other, inflicted undeniable hardship in some cases. The growing feeling of discontent has been met by a compact which will almost certainly go into force at the next meeting of the council. Shortly, it is that the standard, which was to have been raised a good deal in 1897, remains the same as at present, and cannot be raised without the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor in council; also the council will accept a certi-