

editors in the United States and Canada, including in my plan all participants in medical editorship, whether editors-in-chief, assistants editors, associate editors or department editors. In order to render later indexing easy I entered each person with his journal upon a separate slip of paper, and it was wonderful how these slips multiplied, pile on pile, until finally no less than 1,150 exponents of the medical phase of the art preservative were represented, and doubtless there were still some whose names had escaped my search.

It was then among a considerable population that the American Medical Editors' Association found the field for the recruitment of its membership. There was no doubt but that every one of the eleven hundred and fifty eligibles should be gathered into the Association, and, acting upon this theory, I wrote a personal letter to each one of them, and to some of them several, inviting attention to the Association, and suggesting co-operation in its objects. The correspondence involved in this campaign then was rather considerable, the formation of the catalogue itself requiring the despatching of some three hundred, and the further campaign for members among the eligibles, whose names had been listed, made necessary the preparation of over twelve hundred letters, the whole mounting up to a total of more than one thousand five hundred letters involved in one phase of the work of the president's office this year, in addition to the correspondence demanded by other features of the work.

Of some of the results of this work you have already learned from the report of the Executive Committee; other results in the way of increasing the efficiency, extending the authority, and widening the influence of the organization, will, it is hoped, manifest themselves with the progress of time.

Much depends upon united effort. The days of sociological individualism have in all phases of human life been supplanted by aggregation. The progress from the human unit—with every man's hand against him, and his own hand against the world—to the family, the tribe, the nation and the imperial aggregation of states, is the history of the growth of humanity from savagery to civilization. Collective action, so long recognized in the realm of higher politics, has pushed into the region of economics. The wastefulness of scattered and individual labor has become so apparent as to make consolidation the watchword of the day, even in some instances to a dangerous degree.

Collective professional study has long been an ideal of the advanced exponents of medicine, but never hitherto has it attained the importance which it has reached to-day. Association for professional advancement has irradiated into every department of the healing science, and who can deny its imperative necessity?