

Society Reports.

Ontario Medical Association.

THE seventeenth annual meeting of the Ontario Medical Association was held in the Normal School, June 2nd and 3rd, 1897.

Serum Therapy.—The discussion in medicine was on "Serum Therapy," and was opened by J. D. Davison, Toronto. He first gave a definition of the various terms used in connection with the new therapy. The manufacture of antitoxin was then described. For every toxine, as the result of bacterial invasion of the septum, there was an antitoxin. In this the beneficence of nature was shown, and a clue was afforded for the treatment of germ diseases. Judging from the very many favorable reports from many places, the success of the treatment of diphtheria by antitoxin was an assured fact. The essayist produced some general statistics which he considered convincing. Of course some reports were unfavorable, which might be accounted for by the bad quality of the serum, lateness of injection (for it must be used early to get the best results), on the insufficient quantity of the dose. He believed our own Parke-Davis could not be excelled. The objections of such men as Lennox, Brown and Winters, to the antitoxin, were then dealt with. The treatment of the bubonic plague, tetanus and scarlet fever was spoken of by the essayist, and reference was made to the work being carried on along this line in small-pox, syphilis, and other diseases in which the supposed causative germ has not yet been isolated.

Dr. T. F. MacMahon gave his unqualified verdict in favor of antitoxin. He had used it in a good many cases of diphtheria, as had his friend, Dr. Eadie, and found it was immediately followed, when used early in the disease, by marked improvement; in laryngeal case the stenosis was relieved, and in all cases there was almost a sudden disappearance of the membrane, and improvement in the temperature, pulse, and condition generally.

Drs. Fraser and Shuttleworth, of Toronto, also took part in the discussion.

Some Remarks on Modern Therapeutics.—Dr. J. T. Fotheringham read a paper entitled, "Some Remarks on Modern Therapeutics." The essayist spoke of the use of the microscope as being a prominent factor in placing the study of therapeutics upon a more rational basis.