

only six millions, our immigration equals now that of the United States when her population was 40,000,000. Such great accessions, we have good reason to fear, are beyond our country's powers of assimilation.

As a national Association we have to bear our part of the great responsibilities imposed upon the country by these great accessions of foreign people, and the rapid growth of its material interests. It devolves upon us, as far as possible, to promote the medical and scientific interests of this country, so that they may be kept abreast with its material development. This responsibility rests on the older provinces chiefly, as in these there is more of leisure and culture. United action on our part will be necessary to cope successfully with these responsibilities and to enable us as a profession to attain to and maintain the status in the country to which we are entitled. This country's conditions are unusual. Its geographical extent is very great, and its population as yet occupies only its southern border, extending from ocean to ocean. Community of action as well as of interest will, consequently, be difficult to develop and maintain. It seems therefore urgent that all available means should be taken to harmonize the interests of the various parts of the country in order the more efficiently to apply our energies for the advance of general scientific and professional interests. The closer we are in touch with one another the greater should be the stimulus to do higher work, the increased zeal and enthusiasm should yield results which will enhance our reputation as a profession, and also redound to the credit of the country as a whole. Every scientific advance, however small, is an asset to the country, both in the intrinsic value of the work itself, and in the impetus it gives to farther advance. It is difficult to impress laymen, even the best educated, with the importance of this truth; but that is not a matter of surprise, seeing that we ourselves are lacking not a little in appreciation of scientific achievements. This indifference to scientific and intellectual affairs is due to many causes, chief among which is the struggle for existence incident to a young country. This struggle has absorbed so much of our energy that little attention has hitherto been paid to purely scientific matters. Our training is almost wholly confined to the preparation for purely professional work, and so little research work has been done that our attention has not been seriously directed into scientific channels. The result is that thus far, with a few notable exceptions, we have been content with the discharge of the daily routine of professional duty. That such is the present status of the Canadian profession few I think will deny. The question arises—What is the duty of this Association in relation to such a state of affairs? No one can take exception to the view that, as the national organization, representing the profession of medicine, it should be the leader in all movements having