

poenæd on calls for some change ; and great benefit, in my opinion, would result if the court would call independent expert testimony. I admit, it is a question requiring careful discussion. The probability of the International Medical Congress meeting next year in the United States should be noted. I would give our secretary power to select a few who will be prepared to maintain the honor of Canada in this great assembly. The threatened invasion of cholera has given a wonderful impetus to hygiene and sanitary laws ; it has stimulated argely municipal scrubbing. This is one of its redeeming features. Dr. Oldwright, of the Ontario Board of Health, who has devoted more time and attention to it than any man I know, had kindly given me a large amount of information on the subject, which, I regret, time will not allow me to make use of. Since our last meeting Ontario has taken up the subject warmly. It has a well managed Bureau of Sanitation, and will, before our next meeting, have a well qualified board of health and a health officer in each municipality.

#### LOSSES BY DEATH.

Gentlemen, it is customary to perform the melancholy duty of reading the death-roll of our members, for the past year. There are, however, a few names not belonging to this society, yet of such concern to the whole profession, that it is our duty to offer a special tribute of respect to their memory. It is not often that a nation has to mourn in one year the extinction of a constellation of such brightness as was reflected from Marion, Sims, Professors Gross, Wood and Parker. All reached a ripe old age, accomplished much, and died honored and respected. The results of their labors were not confined by the boundaries of any country, but embraced the whole world of suffering. Such men all nations honor, their names are inscribed on the imperishable roll of the world's benefactors. We who have so often individually and collectively enjoyed the hospitality and courteous attention of their countrymen, whose delegates we meet yearly and are proud to see here to-day, offer, through these delegates, the expression of our profound regret at the loss they have sustained, and we do so in no perfunctory manner, but as neighbors united by the ties of acquaintance and friendship. Such, gentlemen, are a few of the subjects which it occurred to me might be of interest. No doubt I have forgotten many. They will be suggestive, I hope, to many of you and will be discussed with fairness. If they should be

the means of evoking anything of advantage to the profession, I will be satisfied they have the merit of being practical, and demonstrate that medical legislation is not only not futile but of great benefit. A rapid review of the science now embracing so many subjects is no doubt part of my duties on this occasion, and requires powers of condensation rather than amplification. In medicine the spirit of research and investigation is

#### INCREASING AND EXTENDING.

Here "the deep searching Teutonic mind which spares no trouble nor labor in the steady pursuit of scientific aims" through everything, still leads as in other branches of scientific medicine. Could the author of *De Sedibus Morborum* now appear on the scene, how vast a progress, how great a change from his day, would he behold ! True there were more theories then than now, but they must now be based on rigid experiment and oft-repeated observations. Hypothesis will not do, they must stand the test of critical scrutiny. The study of minute organism has led to wonderful results, surpassing in interest all other investigations, and exercising a wonderful influence on the causes and treatment of diseases, producing results which appear destined to effect a revolution in medicine. Bacterial pathology, as it is called, holds universal sway. We hear of nothing but microbes, bacilli and germs. Germs to right of us, germs to left of us, germs everywhere. We are stormed at by germs. The partisans of Cohnheim and Stricker, of proliferation and emigration, fold their arms and look on. Leucocytes have for the time lost their interest. The names of Pasteur and Koch alone absorb attention, they are known everywhere and we admire and wonder as disease after disease appears to yield to the investigator and the veil is removed. Already pneumonia, pleurisy, syphilis, some skin diseases, typhus, typhoid and yellow fevers are shown to depend on micro-organisms. The list lengthens. Last year the whole world was amazed at the discovery that tuberculosis, which, in one of its many forms, pulmonary consumption, carries off annually of the people of this Dominion 6,597 belongs to the bacillary group—is of parasitic origin.

The result of this year's investigation serve to confirm the idea, although for a time they are left out of sight by the startling announcement that

#### THE DREAD SCOURGE CHOLERA,

which threatens us with a visit, has also its peculiar microbe. More important still as the results of the brilliant experiments of Pasteur in producing by