

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, chiefly 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. Then 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? As the national organization representing the profession of medicine, no one can take exception to the view that it should be the leader in all movements having for their objects the elevation of the status of the profession and the advance of the scientific interests of the country.

In the past the Association has been satisfied with a quiet existence, content to take by the way, anything that was offered, obeying both in letter and spirit the injunction, "take no thought for the morrow." To many, especially of the younger men, living even at our doors it is scarcely known. During the year I have asked not a few to present papers at this meeting who had almost forgotten the Association's existence, if they ever knew of it. It is surely time to awake out of this Rip Van Winkle state, and develop the power of the

Association so that its existence shall be known to the remotest corner of this land. How can this be done? That the present constitution of the Association is inadequate to making any serious effort in this direction, all will agree, and if anything is to be accomplished there must first be such a re-organization as will enable the Association to take effective action on the many important questions that must come before it from time to time. It is only by doing so that we can fulfil the objects which forty years ago its founders had in view. The very existence of this Association imposes on it the duty to consider all questions of national importance. It cannot make good its claim to a national character if it evades the responsibility. While the constitution of the Association at its organization was the best that could be devised to suit the needs of the time, it is but ill-adapted to the greatly altered conditions of the present day. The time seems ripe and the need urgent for a complete re-organization in order to fit the Association to meet the growing demands incident to a growing country, and enable it to occupy its place in the medical world. Even for the continued existence of the Association, it seems necessary to make radical changes in its constitution.

These are some of the motives which, at Halifax two years ago, led the Association to take preliminary steps looking towards re-organization. A committee was appointed to consider the whole matter. Its report is ready for your consideration. The committee in its recommendations has followed closely the constitution of the British Medical Association, the oldest of all similar organizations, and of the American Medical Association, which was modelled