

*Hamilton (F. H.) + Yeaman.
(G. H.)*

The Medico-Legal Society

OF THE

CITY OF NEW YORK:

Its Status, Purposes and Scientific Aspects.

ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 7, 1877.

Retiring Address by PROF. F. H. HAMILTON, M. D., LL. D.,

AND

Inaugural Address of the President, HON. GEO. H. YEAMAN.



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RETIRING ADDRESS BY PROF. F. H. HAMILTON, M.D., LL.D.

GENTLEMEN: Permit me to mention briefly the leading topics which have engaged the attention of this Society during the year just ended:

The first meeting, in November, 1876, was occupied by the reading of the President's Inaugural Address.

In December, George M. Beard, M.D., active member, read a paper on "Trance, or Somnambulism in its Medico-Legal Relations," which was unfortunately not published in our regular organ, THE SANITARIAN, AND ORGAN OF THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY, but which appeared in full in the January number of the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, Chicago, Illinois.

January 3d, 1877.—A large audience of members and citizens listened to a paper on "Personal Identity," by J. Appleton Morgan, active member, attorney at law and counselor, published in the "organ" of the Society, for January, 1877. At the same meeting, after a brief statement by the Chair, of what the Society had undertaken to do in the matter of school hygiene, a report was made by the committee on the subject. A paper was also read by Professor C. R. Agnew, M.D., by invitation, on the "Defects of Vision caused by Study, and by the Bad Arrangement of Light in the School-Houses." The report of the committee, and Dr. Agnew's paper, are published in the "organ" for March, 1877. A lengthy discussion ensued, in which Mr. James Appleton Morgan considered, especially, the subject of Compulsory Education; Mr. Wm. A. Owen, Principal of the Eighty-seventh Street District School, the Condition of the Schools, and the need of a Competent Medical Inspector, etc., etc.; Robert R. McIlvane, M.D., the Proportion of Blind to the Population, etc.; Moreau Morris, M.D., the Duty of the Health Department in reference to School Hygiene. Full minutes of this discussion will be found in the "organ" for April, 1877.

February 7th, 1877.—Dr. Alfred M. Carroll, active member, read a paper on the "Plea of Insanity," published in the "organ" for June. After which a paper on "Defective Vision in School Children," was read by the Secretary, contributed by invitation by Dr. Edward G. Loring, of this city, published in the "organ" for May, 1877, with the discussion which ensued, conducted chiefly by Jacob F. Miller, Esq., and Dr. R. J. O'Sullivan.

March 7th.—Dr. Samuel A. Raborg, active member, read a paper entitled "Is the Connection of Charity with Correction, in the City of New York, useful? What should be the Policy of a Great City toward its Poor?" Discussed and published in the "organ" for July, 1877, with the debate; conducted chiefly by Simon Sterne, late Com.

P. C., etc., Dr. McIlvane, Hon. Frank Sherman Smith, Judge Fithian and Dr. Raborg. At this same meeting the Permanent Commission reported, through Mr. Yeaman, their reply to the inquiries made by the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society, relative to the laws of this State regulating the conduct of medical witnesses in confidential cases, and to the experience and opinions of the Society as to its practical working and value. The report was accepted and approved.

April 4th.—The Society listened to a paper, by Jacob F. Miller, Esq., active member, on "Medical Experts." No copy of this paper, nor of the discussions which ensued, has yet been furnished for publication. It is too valuable to be lost, and it is hoped that a copy will soon be furnished.

May 2d.—Dr. W. G. Stevenson, of Poughkeepsie, read, by invitation, a paper entitled "Criminality," which, having been discussed, was published in the "organ" for August and September.

June 6th.—Dr. Isaac Ray, of Philadelphia, the distinguished author of "Mental Pathology," "Mental Hygiene," etc., etc., honorary member of the Society, read, by invitation, a paper on "Testamentary Capacity." Published in the "organ" for October, 1877.

September 5th.—Dr. Thomas C. Finnell, active member, addressed the Society on the "Legal Responsibilities of those who administer Anæsthetics." A lengthy discussion ensued. The address and debate are still to be published.

The October meeting being for the annual election of officers, and for the auditing the reports of the officers, no paper was read. At the close of the regular business of the evening, however, on motion of Dr. J. F. Dunphy, the Chair was directed to appoint a committee of five, three of whom should be lawyers and two physicians, to report to the Society whether any farther legislation was required to prevent criminal abortions.

The Chair appointed Drs. John F. Dunphy, James O'Dea, Jacob F. Miller, Freeman J. Fithian and Wm. G. Davies.

At the same meeting, also, the Committee on the Hygiene of the Schools, made, through Dr. O'Sullivan, a supplementary report, which was accepted and approved, and the committee continued.

It will be observed that, under our By-Laws, there are only eight evenings in the year devoted to the reading of regular papers and discussions thereon. Of these papers, the active members of the Society have contributed six, two of which were contributed by the lawyers, and four by the physicians. The two remaining evenings were occupied by distinguished medical gentlemen from abroad (one of whom, Dr. Ray, was an honorary member), both of which papers related exclusively to medico-legal science. There have been presented also, and read, two carefully prepared and elaborate papers on State Medicine, not strictly medico-legal, contributed, on invitation, by medical gentlemen who are not members of the Society, but who are regarded as experts on the subjects upon which they wrote, and whose opinions were thought desirable in connection with the subject of School Hygiene.

All of these papers have been or will be published in our regular organ, except one, as has been already stated, and will constitute, I am constrained to say, valuable matter for reference to the future student of medico-legal science and public hygiene.

The report of the Treasurer shows that, notwithstanding the smallness of the initiation and annual dues and the additional expense incurred for the better accommodation for the meetings of the Society, for the library, including room-rent, the purchase of books, insurance, and a very small salary to the Secretary, the amount of money now in the treasury is larger than is usual at the close of the year. Some portion of the fund, set aside last year for the increase of the library, has not yet been expended, on account of the difficulty of finding those books for which the Society most stands in need.

During the year the trustees have formally taken possession of all the property which could be found, and which, for the want of a home, was much scattered; and having secured a proper insurance, we may feel confident that none of our future accumulations will be lost—certainly not while the present efficient board of trustees remain in office.

I think it my duty to explain why so much of the time of the Society, both at the regular meetings and in the committees, has been occupied with the subject of School Hygiene—a subject which does not come wholly within the original purpose of our organization—and in an attempt to procure metropolitan and legislative action, with a view to its improvement.

It is now more than a year since this subject was brought to our attention by a member of the Society, and a former school inspector, Dr. R. J. O'Sullivan.

And, since then, as a result of our own inspections, and through various communications from those who are interested and possess knowledge upon the subject, our information has accumulated, and the conviction has forced itself upon us, that the condition of our schools is, in certain respects, bad—very bad—and that some remedy ought to be speedily applied.

The evils which we have observed are, briefly: over-crowding, especially in the primary departments; imperfect ventilation; bad arrangement of the light; faulty construction and dangerous proximity of the water-closets; too long confinement in the school-rooms; admission of thousands of children at an age when they ought to be in the nursery or at play, namely, between the ages of four and six years (there are 17,000 children under six years in our school-houses); insufficient and unsuitable play-grounds; the construction of large and expensive buildings on small lots, so that little or no space is left on either side for the admission of light and air.

Most of these evils are remediable at once, under proper laws and intelligent administration; while some of them can only be remedied as new buildings are constructed and the old ones are abandoned.

We are informed that the Board of Education has hitherto paid no attention to the repeated complaints sent to it by the Board of Health; but that the reports of the Medical Inspectors, who have been from time to time detailed for this special purpose by the Board of Health, have been passed unnoticed; at least, they have provoked neither reply nor action. The evils complained of are not remedied—nor does the Board of Health attempt to enforce action by the exercise of its own legitimate authority.

We have reason to believe that our own respectful complaints and

suggestions have been treated in the same manner. In short, we are made to understand that the Board of Education does not recognize the existence of but few, if any, of the evils to which I have referred. If such is the fact, then I think the members of this Society, and probably all who have made themselves acquainted with the hygienic condition of our common schools, will say that the Board of Education, as at present constituted, is either incompetent to judge of what are proper sanitary conditions; or has taken no pains to learn the facts; or is criminally negligent in giving information to the public, and in asking for help to enable it to correct the evils. In either case, with all respect for the gentlemen composing that Board, they are not the proper men for the responsible trust imposed upon them. Nor is it certain that the Board of Health has done all it might do in this matter, to relieve itself of the same imputation.

The insalubrity of school-houses—we beg to remind the Board of Education—may not be recognized by persons inexperienced in these matters, whatever intelligence they may possess in other matters, and who merely pass through the rooms in a “tour of inspection”; but the most inexperienced, even children under six years, will recognize their own discomfort, and the cause of it, if shut up many hours in hot and unventilated rooms—and they will generally contrive, under some pretense or another, to get out into the air. In the same manner, the brakeman or the conductor of a railroad-car, who passes in and out every few minutes, never discovers that the air is overheated or impure, until his attention is called to it by the suffering passengers. The case is very different, however, when an expert hygienist—and all educated physicians are, or ought to be, experts in this matter—enters a school-house. To him a single inspection furnishes all the evidence required; and he might equally determine what the sanitary results must necessarily be, from a mere statement of the facts in any given case.

The medical man alone, also, observes and knows to what extent the various forms of disease to which children are liable, are referable to school-houses and school hygiene. He does not study these diseases and their causes exclusively in the school-room, but in the sick-room, also; where the Board of Education, and the engineer, who is in most cases their only responsible inspector, seldom if ever enter; or, if they did, their opinions as to the causes of the maladies they were permitted to see, would possess very little value.

The intelligent medical man even calculates with almost mathematical precision, and prognosticates the future, so far as the bad hygiene of the schools relates to the future condition of the child.

As he finds that in the large manufacturing towns of England, the children prematurely, and for too many hours, confined in factories, grow up into a race of men and women, short in stature, crooked, rickety, bear-eyed, physically feeble and intellectually dull; so, also, he finds, or, if he has not actually found he has a right to infer, that a similar confinement in over-crowded and badly-ventilated rooms will produce the same results.

We ask for legislation to prevent the admission of children under six years of age.

It may be proper that the city should provide “nurseries” for

children; but it would be easy to show that our school-houses are neither adequate nor suitable for such purposes.

We ask, also, that in the Board of Education, composed of twenty-one members, there shall be at least one medical man, appointed with especial view to his competency. There ought to be two; so that there may be a healthy attrition of opinions, and that there may be also the strength of union, when their opinions concur. One of the qualities essential to the "competency" of such appointee is an ability to stand upright under pressure—back-bone—a quality which is useful everywhere in life, perhaps, but which becomes indispensable when, as in this case, the odds would be greatly against us. I am informed that there are in the Board of Education six lawyers. The members are, therefore, probably well instructed as to their *rights*. We propose, on our part, to teach them some of their *duties*.

There ought to be, also, one Medical Inspector, independent of the Board of Education, assigned exclusively to the inspection of the public school houses.

Thus far our efforts to secure proper legislation and to influence municipal action have failed; but, so far as the Legislature is concerned, at least, we are not without encouragement.

I mistake, however, the temper of this Society, and of those who have been most active in the matter, if there is any disposition to relinquish the effort. The interests involved are too vast—the interests of more than a hundred thousand children; the evils are too great, and the encouragement is too liberal, to warrant a suspension of our labors.

Parents constantly urge us to renewed exertions; school teachers receive us with open arms, and beg us not to withdraw our hands; and the public press, with almost one voice, sustains and encourages us to continue the self-appointed champion and friend of the children.

We have no interest in the schools which every citizen has not. This large body of lawyers and physicians is not seeking to entertain itself and amuse the public by dramatic representations; we want no places, either of emolument or honor; we have no political ends to subserve; but we believe we have discovered great defects in our school system, and we are determined that, if possible, they shall be remedied. Let it be fully understood by all who are interested, and especially by those who, in their long personal experience and endurance of the evils, have become weary of waiting, that we are in earnest, and that we hope and intend to succeed.

It only remains for me, gentlemen, to thank you again for the honor you have conferred upon me, by electing me as your presiding officer during two consecutive years, and for the forbearance you have uniformly shown to me while occupying this chair, and to introduce to you my successor, the Hon. George H. Yeaman—a lawyer, eminent in the practice and exposition of law—late a representative in Congress, and Minister to the Court of Sweden—author of a work entitled "The Study of Government," which must be regarded as a monument of industry, learning and classical taste—a careful student of medico-legal science, and an active member of this Society. He is especially fitted for the place to which you have elected him by your

unanimous vote. Under his guidance, and with the same kind support extended to him which you have extended to me, we have a right to anticipate a period of continued prosperity and usefulness.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT—HON. GEORGE H. YEAMAN.

GENTLEMEN OF THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY :

In accepting the honor you have conferred, and the duties you have imposed upon me, by an election to the Presidency of the Medico-Legal Society, I have to observe that this mark of your confidence and esteem appears all the greater to me because it was expressed at a moment when at least some of you must have known that I was so situated in regard to other duties, and other demands upon my time and care, that I may not be able to give to the labors of the office that degree of diligence and that constancy of attention which their importance would merit, and which my own ardent desire for your success would otherwise cheerfully command at my hands.

Upon this point I am relieved from any apprehension of feeble executive action, by the character and efficiency of the gentlemen selected as First and Second Vice-Presidents.

And yet, upon whomsoever may fall, from time to time, the discharge of these duties within the next year, the incumbent of this chair will suffer by your constant remembrance of, and comparison with, the conduct of the same office by our distinguished out-going President, who has just taken his official leave of you.

It would be useless for me, after the review just made by Prof. Hamilton, to attempt any extended summary or analysis of our last year's labors, nor will it be expected at my hands.

But I cannot refrain, in passing, from congratulating you that your labors in behalf of the health of the public schools, and in the matter of testing and preventing the adulteration of milk, as well as guarding the rights and liberties of those who might be convicted and punished upon insufficient tests, have attracted general and deep interest in this city and elsewhere; while the establishment and working of your Permanent Commission has resulted in the rendition of a full and careful report upon advice asked for by an eminent medical society of a neighboring State, in reference to a proposed amendment of their own statutory law, to protect, as confidential, communications between patient and physician.

As to the future of our Society, I hope there is no reason to fear that it will not be as prosperous, as interesting, as instructive and useful as in the past; and there ought to be ground to hope that increased experience, a more thorough and effective organization, and a longer and better established position in the esteem and confidence of the public, will render your labors and discussions still more useful and effective.

The Medico-Legal Society, as its name imports, is composed mainly of members of the medical and legal professions. It is not a medical society, nor a legal society, nor is it a mere club or social organization. It is strictly a scientific body.

As such, what is its province? While strictly scientific, its intended field of exploration and discussion does not embrace all of

science—not even all of medical science, nor all of legal science. The medical side of this house would scarcely open a discussion here to instruct lawyers whether tuberculosis and scrofula are, or are not, the same disease, attacking or developed in, different parts of the system; nor would the legal side of the house deem the time of this Society well spent in arguing to the doctors either that the New Code is or is not a better system of procedure than the one which it supplants.

Either medical science or legal science is a field of study and investigation, in which we may always learn, always advance, and still the horizon, the boundary of our knowledge, recedes from us, and seems wider in proportion as light becomes greater and clearer.

What is our joint portion of these vast expanses? It is this. At many points of investigation, of practice and discovery, the two professions meet, in so far that light from both is needed for a right solution; and knowledge of both, within certain defined limits, is needed for a correct and successful solution of the problem.

It is these points of common ground, common interest, professional contact, over which, in the technical language of my own profession, this Society may be said to "have jurisdiction"—a jurisdiction assumed by us in the interests of science, our judgments being worth just what our facts and reasons are worth.

Hence, one would naturally infer that medical jurisprudence would be the first and most important subject that would ordinarily and most naturally command our attention. And I believe it is historically true that this was the principal object in view, in the minds of those who organized and called into being this Society, as it was in the field of medical jurisprudence—a discussion and report upon the tests employed to detect poison in a celebrated criminal trial—that this Society gathered one of its first and brightest laurels.

And let no one suppose that these points of contact and mutual interests of the two professions, this limited scientific jurisdiction, furnish a field for inquiry and discussion too small to be interesting or useful.

The recorded lists of your scientific papers, and the official reports of your committees, attest the vast range and variety of the subjects which may properly be discussed here. Insanity, in all its forms, real or theoretical, its relations to legal capacity and legal responsibility, the widest and most varied field of our labors; toxicology, abortion, infanticide, effects of certain injuries from railroad accidents, adulteration of food, especially of milk, the sanitary condition and government of schools, testamentary capacity—a vast field, expert testimony—another vast field, chloroform as an agent to facilitate robbery, statutory protection of communications between physician and patient, heredity of nervous diseases, reviews of celebrated trials, questions in life insurance, questions of malpractice, and many other subjects of absorbing and vital interest, constantly elicit laborious and careful discussion at your hands.

Nor would I hold that our discussions and investigations should be too closely confined to medical jurisprudence, strictly and technically so-called. I would deem them properly confined only within the limits of those questions or points of mutual interest. One of the questions which has been laboriously investigated and fully discussed

here, the sanitary—or, if some prefer, the unsanitary—condition and management of the public schools, can scarcely be called a question of medical jurisprudence; yet it is, or upon occasion may become, a fit subject for discussion by a medico-legal society.

Another subject, embracing the one first mentioned, as well as all kindred questions, subjects of vast range and variety, and of vital importance, sometimes collectively expressed by the term "State-Medicine," may properly receive a just proportion of your attention, involving, as it does, the question how far, and in what way, can or ought government to interpose for the protection of the health of the citizen.

If the question be whether better sewerage in the city or better drainage in the country should be established; or whether an artificial pond or lake, intended to adorn a landscape, has not become a laboratory of poison that needs to be abated; or whether blocks and acres of tenement-houses have not been so constructed as to destroy their occupants with typhoid, scarlatina and diphtheria; or whether a plumber has not so exercised the highest skill of his art in arranging the plumbing of a costly house in the fashionable quarter of the city, as to conduct the most of sewer poison in the most direct way into the sleeping apartments—in all these questions there are always two opinions or judgments needed (aside from questions of engineering skill)—first, the medical opinion, whether a nuisance, a danger, an evil does exist, and its precise nature; next, the legal opinion as to how the remedy may or can be applied; whether existing laws and regulations are sufficient, if executed; whether there are any vested rights that cannot be encroached upon, even by additional legislation; and whether constitutional amendment may be necessary.

Thus it is that reports from your committees, composed of members from both professions, may be and are made to embrace all the material questions pertaining to a given subject, whether viewed from the medical or legal stand-point. But in enlarging, however little, our field of discussion beyond subjects appertaining strictly and technically to medical jurisprudence, we should be careful not to go too far, and not, by our discussions here, convert this Society into a social science association, in which are discussed all things affecting man as a social being.

Behold the beauty, and the invigorating effects, mentally and morally, of all such investigations and discussions. Science is knowledge—knowledge can only be perception, discovery, comprehension of truth. All truth is akin, related in some way to every other truth or fact in the universe; and every fact casts its light upon, or has its relations with, some other fact or class of facts. The test of truth, the touch-stone of scientific reasoning, is the harmony of these relations.

We must apply this to our labors. Lawyers may demonstrate that government has power to do this or that, and may advocate the measure, but medical men may demonstrate that doing it would be an injury instead of a benefit. So, medical men may demonstrate that certain things are extremely pernicious to health, individual or public, and may propose that doing or permitting such things be prevented, or even punished; but the legal profession may interpose the obstacle that, under our form of constitutional government, the

evils complained of cannot be reached by law, but only by reason and education, and could not be legally controlled under any form of government consistently with the preservation of personal liberty. Thus at every step within the field we propose to cultivate, a medico-legal consultation becomes necessary.

There is something in all this, and in all scientific investigations, which not only promotes the discovery of truth, but also nourishes, develops and intensifies the love of truth for its own sake, as does all devotion to science, by its truthfulness and carefulness of statement.

Lawyers, as such, may accuse each other of short cuts and trickery ; and medical men, as such, may have their rivalries and their disputes over the ethics of their profession. But who ever heard of a scientific man, as such, whether doctor, lawyer, chemist, geologist, astronomer or scientific man of all work, accusing another scientific man of willful falsehood in the statement of facts? They may doubt the sufficiency of evidence of the alleged or supposed facts; or, conceding the facts to exist, may dissent from, criticise, ridicule the conclusions drawn from them; but the absolute good faith of the genuine devotee of science, in stating facts, seems to be generally conceded.

Scientific discussion has its rough points, sharp features and acute angles. It is sometimes witty, sometimes sarcastic, sometimes a little acid. And we cannot expect to escape these features of discussion within this hall, simply because we are men. Indeed, a little liveliness may sometimes awaken an interest which would otherwise slumber.

But over all this, over pride of opinion, over all warmth, even over jealousy, if that evil monster could invade these precincts, Science will preside as the constant moderator and the ultimate arbiter; for we appear here not as the partisans of the medical view, nor the partisans of the legal view, but only as the searchers after and the advocates of Truth.

Allow me now to suggest for your consideration and better judgment a few thoughts as to the means of promoting the interests and usefulness of this Society.

There should be a constant and regular supply of appropriate papers to be read and discussed whenever other business will permit. Sometimes the reading and discussion of reports will occupy a large part of an evening, seldom all of it. But in a Society like this nothing can supply the place of well-prepared scientific papers. And you should not rely entirely upon the exertions of one or more officers to secure the production of these papers. A presiding officer, though diligent in this respect, cannot always know who would like to read, or would consent to read, a paper upon any subject; and in soliciting a paper from one member, who, out of modesty, declines, might pass by another who is willing, or ready to read, but from the same modesty, fails to offer himself. I would see no impropriety in members who would like to read on any particular subject mentioning it to the proper officer, and arranging to have his subject placed on the list of prospective papers ; and members are invited to do so.

Concerning the distribution and disposition of scientific questions, I would submit that the aim should be to have as many as possible of your members to engage in them, and that the effort should be to

have the interest and the responsibility of inquiry and determination distributed as generally and as evenly as the opportunities and willingness of members to do the work would make practicable. However learned, able and useful your Permanent Commission may be, the welfare of the Society, and the interest of members in its labors, would not be advanced by making or allowing such a standing committee to become the absorbent or receptacle of all scientific questions arising here. It ought not to be made, or allowed, to supersede the business and duties of special committees, and thus make the other active members of the Society feel that they have nothing to do, and can be of no aid or use in our investigations. It might be difficult to draw any accurate line of demarcation between it and other committees, but I would suggest, in general terms, that any question arising in a meeting of the Society by motion, resolution, or vote of inquiry, might very well be referred to a special committee to be appointed for that purpose, while any questions arising by correspondence, inquiry, or reference, from other sources, and referring not to routine business, nor to the interests of this Society, as such, but to a purely scientific or medico-legal question, and arising in the interim of our meetings, might be laid before the Permanent Commission in the manner provided for in its organization; and such, I understand, was the object and aim of its distinguished prototype, the Permanent Commission of the Medico-Legal Society of Paris.

I submit that some more definite plan should be adopted, if at all practicable, for the publication in permanent form of our papers and transactions. The present mode of publication in the organ of this Society is good and useful so far as it goes. Do we not need and merit more than this? Other scientific societies and associations publish their transactions in a form more convenient for use and reference, and more sure and easy of permanent preservation. The second volume of our papers and transactions remains unpublished, while material for a third volume has in great part accumulated. This is, upon every account, to be regretted, and it is to be hoped that in this respect we may not longer continue to lag behind sister societies. And whether our papers and transactions are to be published in volumes or not, I submit for your consideration whether an arrangement cannot be made, within the means of the Society, or by the co-operation of authors and the publishers of *THE SANITARIAN*, to have our papers printed and distributed in pamphlet form. By this means a copy of every paper could be placed, soon after being read here, in the hands of any member of the Society; many would read who cannot always be here to listen. A more lively interest would be kept up in our proceedings and discussions, and this publication, either in book or pamphlet form, would often enable us to make exchanges with other Societies in this and foreign countries, and thus be making valuable additions to our library.

To increase and preserve, to render complete, and therefore great and useful, the library of this Society, ought to be among our most cherished aims and purposes. Libraries are the centres and foci into which the world's thought is condensed, in whose folds truth finds permanent lodgment, surrounded by an army of witnesses. Libraries are the luminaries from which radiate the beams and floods

of light to guide and strengthen the race in its search after undiscovered facts, while assuring the mental grasp upon the harvest already gathered. We have made a good beginning with our library. Time, labor and money have been expended upon it. It is already a good collection—one of the best of the kind on this continent. But it is not complete. It can be made fuller and better. The desirableness of doing this is not open for discussion. But plans and means need to be devised and executed. The plan of soliciting and securing contributions of books and pamphlets has been so fruitful and successful in the past, that we may still hope to rely in part upon that mode of increase in the future. But while employing this means to increase and build up our library, some care must be exercised to prevent the accumulation of a uselessly large number of copies, especially old editions, of the same work, and to prevent lumbering our shelves with donations of books, very good of their kind, but wholly foreign to our subjects of inquiry and discussion. The other plan, that of direct purchase of books with our own funds, or with donations of money made by others for that purpose, has the advantage that we may thus make sure of the latest editions, and make such selections as demands for books by members, and discovered deficiencies, indicate to be necessary. By this means a library grows, not merely in size and numbers, but also in completeness, in unity and efficiency.

Touching two of the subjects to which I have called your attention, and upon which I would recommend your action—I mean publishing our papers and transactions, and increasing our library—I am aware that expense is the great difficulty which meets us at the threshold. While I am not prepared actually to recommend that our revenues be increased by an increase of our annual dues, yet I do venture to submit for your consideration whether such a measure would be wise and practicable. If it could be done without injury to the Society, then certainly our increased ability to print and to buy, would lend an increased interest to the Society in the eyes of all, both members and the public at large.

Again thanking you for the honor you have conferred upon me, and doubting my ability and opportunity to serve you as others might, I am yet sure that no member of this Society entertains a more ardent wish than myself for your success, your prosperity, your renown, and your continued and increased usefulness.

THE SANITARIAN.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CULTURE.

A. N. BELL, M.D., Editor.

T. P. CORBALLY, M.D., Associate Editor.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY.

"Nothing is more essential than knowledge of our homes and surroundings, and the means by which we can prolong life and increase our comfort, or avoid agents that are deleterious to health. This is the matter THE SANITARIAN gives."—*Johnstown Republican*.

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