

QUOTATIONS

THE WINNIPEG PROGRAM OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

ON August 22 the Canadian Medical Association begins the business of its sixty-first annual session at Winnipeg, under the presidency of Professor W. Harvey Smith, and three days later members of the British Medical Association from this country and other parts of the Empire assemble in that city, as guests of our Manitoba colleagues, for the ninety-eighth annual meeting of the British Medical Association. On August 26 they will be welcomed by the Prime Minister of Canada and the Mayor of Winnipeg, and Professor Harvey Smith, after installation as our president for 1930-31 at the hands of Professor Burgess, will deliver his inaugural address. The association has only met twice before outside the British Isles, and each time in the Dominion of Canada—at Montreal in 1897 and at Toronto in 1906. On this occasion something more than friendship and common ties will unite visitors and hosts, because since the year 1924 the two professional bodies, by accepting formal affiliation, have come into close organic touch on matters of mutual concern. The Winnipeg meeting of 1930 is thus a landmark in association history. Those who are fortunate enough to take part in it will have done something to strengthen the links between the profession at home and the profession overseas, and to show that the British Medical Association is Empire-wide in its outlook.

The revised program of work for the scientific sections, with a good deal of other information about the arrangements for the meeting, appears in our Supplement this week. Brief particulars of the journey by sea and land, and some useful hints for travellers, are also given, but any member proposing to go to Winnipeg should apply at once to the financial secretary for a copy of the booklet containing full details of the various tours. In general the program for the annual meeting of 1930 follows fairly closely the pattern with which we are familiar on this side of the Atlantic, except that all medico-political business will already have been disposed of at the annual representative meeting which opens on July 19 at the association's headquarters in London. The fourteen sections are to meet on the mornings of August 27, 28 and 29, and a very varied and interesting list of subjects, both clinical and scientific, has been drawn up for consideration. While the number of set debates is larger than usual and several sections will combine to discuss borderline topics, the occasional paper has not been elbowed out altogether,

and (as an example of how hard it is to draw a clear-cut line) the subject chosen for the joint meeting of the sections of surgery and tuberculosis is so wide that its "discussion" might almost as well be described as a series of independent papers, each concerned with a different aspect of thoracic surgery.

Some of the social events of the week—they include a skating carnival and an Indian pageant—have a very agreeable air of novelty to English eyes. A break with tradition will be perceived also in the announcement of five clinical addresses to be delivered at special afternoon sessions. When our brethren in Canada travel long distances to take part in a medical congress they mean business, and the chance of hearing an authority from these Islands speak to them on his own subject is in their opinion too good to be missed. They expect some fun, but work comes first. Hence Sir William Wheeler, Dr. H. C. Cameron, Sir Lenthal Cheatle, Professor W. E. Dixon and Sir Farquhar Buzzard (whose subject, perhaps chosen in a spirit of gentle irony, is "Rest, Work and Play") may be sure of large and appreciative audiences in the Winter Club on summer afternoons. For like reasons, we may suppose, Lord Dawson and Dr. Robert Hutchison have been persuaded by the local executive to address a public meeting on the night of August 27; and the week's proceedings will fittingly close with the delivery of Lord Moynihan's Listerian Oration, under the chairmanship of Professor John Stewart of Halifax, a veteran surgeon who was Lister's pupil and friend in Edinburgh and is one of the most admired and respected personalities in the Canadian medical profession.

A very warm welcome awaits every member who visits Canada next month. Those on this side who have been in constant touch with them during the past two years and more know that the president-elect and his immediate local colleagues, Dr. J. D. Adamson, Dr. C. A. Mackenzie and Dr. Ross Mitchell, are determined to make the Winnipeg meeting memorable in the annals of the British Medical Association; and that the Canadian Medical Association, through its general secretary, Dr. T. C. Routley, and its acting-editor, Dr. A. G. Nicholls, is cooperating in the fullest measure. If hard work, enthusiasm and foresight can ensure success, then the ambition of Professor Harvey Smith and company will be realized. Canada is very good at organizing affairs, large or small. Almost the only thing they can not guarantee without our help is an attendance from the British Isles worthy of the occasion and of their efforts.—*British Medical Journal*.