

Canada.

PROFESSOR OSLER.

CANADIANS are, naturally, much interested in the honour conferred upon Dr. William Osler, as he always remained a Canadian and took the deepest interest in that country and in all that concerned the profession there, while he was ever ready to do all in his power for Canadians. He will be much missed at their Medical Associations, while Baltimore, which was the Mecca of young post-graduate students on this side of the Atlantic, has lost its greatest attraction. All will concur fully in what the *Telegram* (Toronto) says:

Greatness, on the line of Dr. William Osler's genius, is difficult of attainment and unapproached in the blessings it conveys to suffering humanity. Such greatness is not honoured with the applause that rewards other and cheaper types of human greatness. But medical science has her heroes no less renowned than those of art or literature, sport or finance, and William Osler is a sovereign figure in the realm of modern medicine. There is, perhaps, no greater living Canadian than Dr. Osler, if greatness is measured by its humane and helpful qualities. Canada is honoured in the honour that comes in King Edward's appointment of Dr. Osler to the place of Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

The annual report of the Department of Agriculture of the North-West Territories for the year 1903, just published, contains a great deal of interesting information with regard to the conditions of existence in this land, which is so rapidly being settled from all parts of Europe and the United States. Tables are supplied, giving the mean daily temperature, precipitation, and crop returns for a large number of stations scattered over this immense tract of land. For example, Edmonton, N. lat. 53.33, W. long. 113.30, 2,158 ft. elevation above sea level, has a mean February temperature of 17.6°, June, 60.3°, an average precipitation of 18.44 in., and a wheat yield of 20 bushels an acre. The total number of settlers who entered during the year was 51,704, and the amount of land taken up was 7,952,243 acres, of which 4,488,000 were taken by homestead entries. There were a few outbreaks of infectious disease during the year, and on account of the sparse population of many parts of the country, it has been hard to deal with them effectively, but the mortality has not been high. A considerable number of cases of small pox have been reported among the Indians and half-breeds. The total number of deaths was 1,681; from epidemic diseases 291; there were 139 deaths from tuberculosis. The number of births was 4,556; marriages 1,521. There are now twelve public hospitals in these territories, and, in spite of the drawbacks of sparse population and primitive conditions, they are doing good work; they are greatly needed in a country where distances are so great that it is practically impossible for serious cases to receive adequate attendance in any other way. A fund—owing its existence to the kind efforts of Lady Minto, and bearing her name—has been raised in the older parts of Canada for the assistance of this work, and, though insufficient to meet all demands, has helped very materially in the solution of the problem.

ONTARIO.

The twenty-second annual report of the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario for the year 1903, issued recently, contains a great many items of interest. The problems arising in connexion with medical attendance and inspection in the large unsettled districts, in the lumber woods, and in mining and construction camps, are different from those met under ordinary circumstances, and the account of the way in which they have been met and overcome will be of value in any country where the conditions are at all similar. An Act was passed by the Legislature a short time ago requiring firms employing labour in places where no medical man was resident to contract with a physician, and to supply adequate hospital accommodation. The report of the inspector shows that a large number of firms have adopted this plan, and it is found very satisfactory, while it supplies occupation for many young men entering their professional career. The report of the bacteriologist shows that during the year 3,126 specimens were examined, including 1,153 specimens of sputum in cases of suspected tuberculosis.

SANITARY STATISTICS OF TORONTO.

The report of the City Engineer of Toronto for the year 1903 is to hand, and contains many interesting facts as to the management of a city which is famed throughout a conti-

nent for its clean streets and generally healthy conditions. The scavenging department occasioned an expenditure of 89,001 dollars for the collection and disposal of 157,222 loads. Citizens are required to provide proper receptacles for garbage, and ashes are to be kept separate. Factory refuse up to a certain amount is removed free of charge; for more than the stated amount a charge is made. The garbage is disposed of in two destructors; about 50 tons are incinerated during the twenty-four hours. In the summer no fuel is required; in the winter about half a ton of slack is needed to keep the fire going; the residue averages about 7 cubic yards a day, of no commercial value, and the cost of maintenance is 12.30 dollars a day. The consumption of water per day was 29,933,347 gal., an increase of 10 per cent. over last year, and the total cost of operating the pumping station was 93,591 dollars. The streets were watered by trolley operated by the Street Railway Company and by carts; in all 77,210,750 gal. of water were used. Cleaning streets, including removal of snow, cost 66,578.78 dollars. All dogs are required to have the tag provided by the city showing that the licence has been paid, and an annual raid is made for the capture of unlicensed dogs; 233 were captured, of which 77 were released, the rest being destroyed in a lethal chamber. The following statistics are given: The population of the city is about 250,757; there are 265,260 miles of streets and 84 miles of lanes; there are 238 miles of sewers and 266,955 miles of water pipes; there are 22 public parks, containing 1,329 acres.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

The session of the University of Toronto will open on October 3rd, Dr. J. A. Temple delivering the opening lecture in the Faculty of Medicine. The Toronto General Hospital has received a gift of 100,000 dollars from Mr. Cawthra Mulock for the building, equipping, and furnishing of a new out-patient department in which the poor can receive the best treatment, and which will increase in a marked degree the clinical facilities of the Medical Department of Toronto University.

QUACK ADVERTISEMENTS.

On August 2nd, at the close of the session of the Dominion Parliament, Sir William Mulock introduced an amendment to the Post Office Act, in order to restrict quack advertisements, which read as follows:

It shall not be lawful to transmit by mail any books, magazines, periodicals, circulars, newspapers, or other publications which contain advertisements representing marvellous, extravagant, or grossly improbable cures, or curative or healing powers, by means of medicines, appliances, or devices referred to in such advertisements.

Naturally, a good deal of opposition was at once developed to the measure, and the leader of the Opposition asked that its consideration be deferred until next session, as it was far-reaching in its effects, and time had not been afforded for its consideration. To this the mover acceded, but the gratitude of the profession is due to him for the introduction of this much-needed legislation.

Scotland.

OPENING OF THE MEDICAL SESSION IN GLASGOW.

THE medical classes at the University of Glasgow and the extramural colleges were resumed for the winter session on Thursday, October 13th. As is usual, there was no formal opening ceremony. At the University, however, several important ceremonies will take place within the next week or two. In addition to the ordinary autumn graduation ceremony, there will be the formal installation of Lord Kelvin as Chancellor of the University, in place of the late Lord Stair. It has also been arranged that the Lord Rector, the Right Honourable George Wyndham, Chief Secretary for Ireland, shall deliver his address to the students early in the session.

GLASGOW AND ABERDEEN UNIVERSITIES.

Representation in Parliament.

Considerable surprise has been expressed, particularly in University and medical circles, at the recent issue of a circular announcing the selection of Professor W. R. Smith, London, as Conservative and Unionist candidate for the representation of the above Universities in Parliament. Little, if anything, of this matter was known in Aberdeen until the circular was sprung upon the members of Council, and, though the