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THE INTERCOLONIAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

Among the many important events to be chronicled in connection with the jubilee year of South Australia the holding of the first Intercolonial Medical Congress must take a high place. This Congress marks a new departure in the Australian medical world that can hardly fail to produce great and beneficial results, and the *éclat* with which it was inaugurated on Tuesday was very appropriate to the occasion. During the week the members, who number 155, will confer on various subjects of interest to the profession and to the general community. Representatives have come from all the colonies excepting Tasmania and Western Australia, and they include most of the leaders of the profession in Australasia. Naturally the majority of the members reside in South Australia—53 are from Adelaide and the suburbs, 36 from the country, and 1 from the Northern Territory. From Victoria there are 29 delegates, from New South Wales 23, from Queensland 8, from New Zealand 4, and from Fiji 1. The Congress will meet for active work this afternoon at the University, where all letters to the delegates will be sent. The Exhibition authorities have courteously granted free passes to the visiting delegates.

CIVIC RECEPTION OF THE DELEGATES.

The reception of the members of the Intercolonial Medical Congress by His Worship the Mayor took place at the Town Hall on Tuesday afternoon. Over 100 gentlemen, including members of the Congress from the various colonies and several visitors from the other colonies, sat down to a tastefully prepared luncheon in the Banqueting-room. After this had been discussed,

The MAYOR proposed the toast of "The Queen." After the company had honoured this he gave "His Excellency the Governor." His Excellency would have been present but for the fact that he had to take a prominent part in the inaugural meeting of the Congress during the afternoon. The fact that he was taking such a prominent part in the Congress showed the deep interest which he felt in this movement which tended in any way to the advancement of South Australia. The toast was honoured with cheers.

His WORSHIP then proposed "Success to the Intercolonial Medical Congress," coupled with the name of its President (Dr. Verco). His object in inviting them to luncheon had been to give them a hearty welcome to South Australia, as he had done to many others during the last few months. He welcomed them first as Mayor of the city on behalf of the citizens, and secondly as President of the Municipal Association.

He was sure he could accord them a hearty welcome to South Australia. It had fallen to his lot during the last few months to welcome many visitors to the colony, and without in the slightest degree depreciating the institutions and Associations to which they belonged he had never given a more hearty welcome, because he recognised that by their Congress they would do good not only to themselves but to our colony. The work upon which they were about to enter would be interesting to them, and the results he was sure would be beneficial to all. In whatever direction they might devote themselves and whatever scientific subject they might discuss, whether medical, surgical, or sanitary, he felt sure that no subject would have better results to the City of Adelaide than that of sanitation. Medical and surgical subjects could be discussed as well elsewhere as here, but in regard to sanitary science they could not have selected a better spot in the whole of Australasia, or one with more beneficial effects than here. We flattered ourselves that we had one of the most perfect systems of house sanitation in the world. (Hear, hear.) All the visitors who had come here, more especially those connected with corporate bodies, had paid no deeper interest to anything in the colony than to the Sewage Farm. The results showed conclusively that the system was a good one. During the last two or three years we had the lowest death-rate of any city of Australia. It was only a little over 14 per 1,000, and had been decreasing year by year. This he thought spoke highly of the deep-drainage system. Our deep-drainage system was begun in 1880 and finished in 1883. He had the honour of being in the civic chair while the deep drainage was being laid down. He had had certain misgivings as to the disposal of the sewage matter. Land, however, had been purchased between Adelaide and the North Arm. It was sandy soil, and less than one-half of it would take the drainage of Adelaide and the suburbs, and of the whole of the manufactories, tanneries, soapworks, breweries, and other such works connected with the city and its surroundings.

The whole of the drainage went direct to the Sewage Farm. A little more than 200 acres sufficed for all filtering purposes, the result being that in the summer-time they got an average of 50 tons of sorghum per acre. Lucerne was cut several times a year, root crops gave abundant returns, and the land not required was let on lease at £10 an acre. These were results of which they had just cause to be proud. The Mayors of Melbourne, Sydney, Sandhurst, and Ballarat had been here, and returned so delighted with our system that there was every reason to believe that they would do their best to adopt the system we had initiated. He heartily welcomed every member of the Congress, not only those living with us but more especially those who had come a long distance, even from New Zealand and Brisbane. He hoped their stay would be pleasant, and he was sure nothing would be wanting on the part of South Australians to make their visit pleasurable and profitable.

Dr. VERCO, in responding, said he thought he expressed the feelings of all present when he said that the reception which the Mayor had given them had justly sustained his great reputation. (Hear, hear.) We had no need to publish to those visitors the hearty bounty which Mr. Smith always extended to visitors. (Hear, hear.) The Congress was indebted to their host for much more than this. He not only welcomed them but granted them the use of the Council-room for their inaugural meeting. They could not dissociate the Congress and the Jubilee Exhibition. It was because they knew that they were to have the one that they had proposed the other. There was no one but would allow that the existence of the Exhibition depended much upon the hopefulness, the determination, and the business ability of their host. (Hear, hear.) Therefore the Congress was due indirectly in a large measure to His Worship the Mayor. They could not but "give honour where honour was due," and he proposed "The Health of His Worship the Mayor."

The toast was honoured enthusiastically, the company singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Mr. SMITH, in responding, said he was only too pleased to know that what he had done had been appreciated, and that the Exhibition was such a success. Financially he believed it would be everything they could desire. When he had left office he would always look back with feelings of pride and pleasure on these occasions when he had had the honour of receiving such distinguished guests. He was proud to have been able to meet them, and thanked them exceedingly for the manner in which they had responded to the toast.

The luncheon then terminated.

THE INAUGURATION OF THE CONGRESS.

The inaugural meeting of the Congress was held in the Councillors' Room. In addition to the members of the Congress there were also present a number of visitors, the room being well filled. His Excellency the Governor arrived at 3 o'clock, and was received and escorted to his seat by the General Committee.

Dr. VERCO, in opening the proceedings, said—In order that we may know what has already been done in reference to the Inter-colonial Medical Congress, as Chairman of the Executive Committee I will call upon Dr. Poulton, the Honorary Secretary, to read the report from the committee.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Dr. POULTON then read the report as follows:—“May it please your Excellency, Mr. President, and Gentlemen—This Inter-colonial Medical Congress of Australasia is the outcome of a suggestion made by the Council of the South Australian Branch of the British Medical Association at the annual meeting held in June, 1886. The Council suggested that a Medical Congress might well take place during the Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign, at a time when the colony of South Australia would be celebrating the completion of the first fifty years of its history, and during the term of the International Exhibition in Adelaide. The members of the branch heartily concurred in the suggestion, and being the only organized Medical Society in South Australia, forthwith appointed a committee to co-operate with the Council in formulating the scheme of such a Congress, and in inviting the co-operation of the profession throughout the Australasian Colonies. Funds were placed at the disposal of the Joint Committee to defray preliminary expenses. The Joint Provisional Committee consisted of Messrs. Cleland, Clindening, Corbin, Hayward, and Drs. Gardner, Poulton, Stirling, Davies, Thomas, Verco, and Watson. Early in September a preliminary announcement was posted to all accredited members of the profession throughout the colonies whose ad-