Eighth Annual Meeting of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association, Buffalo, N. Y.,
September 13, 14 and 15, 1898.

S HORTLY after 10 a. m. Dr. Charles Rea Dickson, of Toronto, Canada, president of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association, called together the eighth annual meeting of the association in the rooms of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

President Dickson introduced Dr. Conrad Diehl, Mayor of Buffalo, who extended the members of the association the freedom of the city. He spoke of the growth and development of electrical treatment since the time it was first adopted by the medical profession, as an important part of the professional apparatus. Dr. Diehl said that the street cars of Buffalo were now run by electric power from Niagara Falls, and urged the members of the association to inspect the electrical plant of the Buffalo Railway Company.

Dr. Francis B. Bishop, of Washington, responded to the Mayor's welcome on behalf of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association.

Reports of standing committees on scientific questions were next in order. Dr. Margaret A. Cleaves, of New York, presented her report on meters. The report was accepted and the committee requested to continue its labors. Dr. Cleaves announced that the committee was not willing to continue its work, but desired the appointment of a new committee on meters.

On constant current generators and controllers the report was asked for from the chairman of the committee, Dr. William J. Herdman, of Ann Arbor, Mich., but in his absence an auxiliary report was presented by another member of the committee, Dr. Robert Newman, of New York, who in 1896 was president of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association.

John J. Carty, electrical engineer, of New York, made a brief report of progress. He is chairman of the committee on electric light apparatus for diagnosis and therapy and the Roentgen X-ray.

Dr. Margaret A. Cleaves, of New York, read a paper on "Phlebitis, a Clinical Study," in which she gave a number of instances which had come under her professional supervision.

Dr. A. D. Rockwell read his paper on "The Diagnostic and Therapeutic Relations of Electricity to Diseases of the Central Nervous System."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Shortly after 2 p. m. the second session of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association was called to order by President Dickson. The first paper on the programme was by an honorary fellow of the society, Dr. Georges Apostoli, of Paris. The subject was "New Uses of the Unilatory Current in Gynaecology." The paper was translated from French into English and was read by Drs. G. Betton Massey, of Philadelphia.

"Electricity in the Treatment of Uterine Fibromata" was the subject of a paper by Dr. Felice La Torre, of Rome, Italy, read by Dr. John Gerin, of Auburn, secretary of the association. Then came a paper on "Electro-Therapeutics in Gynaecology," by Drs. Georges Gantier and J. Larat, of Paris, France, read in English by Dr. Dickson, president of the association, followed by "The Treatment of Uterine Fibroids by Small Currents, Administered Percutaneously," by Dr. Richard J. Nunn, of Savannah, Ga.

Dr. W. H. White, of Boston, read a paper by Dr. Adelastin de Martigny, of Montreal, on "Treatment of Menorrhagia by Weak Current and Silver Internal Electrode."

This was the concluding paper on the afternoon programme. An early adjournment was taken in order that members of the association might avail themselves of the tally-ho ride about the city, planned by the committee on arrangements.

An invitation to the association to visit the storage battery of the Buffalo Railway Company was sent by Superintendent Danforth at the request of Mayor Diehl.

RECEPTION FOR THE VISITORS.

At 8:30 p. m. a public reception in honor of the members of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association was held in Alumni Hall, University of Buffalo Building, which was largely attended, many medical men of Buffalo being present.

Dr. Henry R. Hopkins, of Buffalo, a member of the local committee on arrangements, spoke of the early work of the medical men in this country. Dr. Charles Rea Dickson, of Toronto, president of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association, made a few remarks, in which he spoke of the fraternal feeling existing between the two great English-speaking nations at the present time.

Dr. Robert Newman, of New York, made a brief address, as did Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson, of Toronto, Deputy Surgeon General of the Canadian Militia.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

An executive session of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association was held at 9 a. m.

The report of the executive council on the revision of the constitution and by-laws was adopted, making some important changes in the governing rules of the association.

The first paper was presented by Dr. Lucien Howe, of Buffalo, who represented the Erie County Medical Society and also the New York State Medical Society at the convention. Dr. Howe's subject was "The Method for Using Cathaphoresis in Certain Forms of Conjunctival Inflammation."

Dr. Howe illustrated his address by means of a number of his patients. His lecture was received with great interest and considerable discussion followed. Many questions were asked Mr. Howe concerning his methods of treatment.

Dr. Robert Newman, of New York, presented an able paper on "Electricity in Deafness and Stricture of the Eustachian Tube." In his address Dr. Newman rehearsed the history of a peculiar case which came under his professional care. He also cited a number of other cases, which had been reported by other physicians.

The discussion which followed Dr. Newman's paper was led by Dr. Howe, followed by Dr. A. D. Rockwell, of New York.

Dr. Grover W. Wende, of Buffalo, read a paper on "Electricity in Acne Vulgaris and Acne Rosacea."

Dr. G. Betton Massey, of Philadelphia, led the discussion of Dr. Wende's paper, followed by Dr. Margaret A. Cleaves, of New York.

Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson, of Toronto, Deputy Surgeon General of the Canadian Militia and the accredited delegate of the Ontario Medical Association, was introduced by President Dickson, and spoke briefly, giving a number of instances of the effect of lightning-stroke causing diseases of the eye, in which the results were not permanently serious.

Dr. Francis B. Bishop, of Washington, presented a paper on "High Tension Current in Neuritis," which was followed by considerable discussion.

The final paper of the morning session was by Dr. Charles Rea Dickson on "Electricity in the Treatment of Goitre."

At 1 o'clock the convention adjourned until 2 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

President Dickson delivered his annual address, a part of which is as follows:

"The necessity for the existence of such an association as ours has been questioned not only here, but elsewhere, hence it may be necessary to explain our position. It has been asked "Why should there be such an association?" Electricity is only one of many therapeutic agents, and it would be absurd to have a separate association to consider each therapeutic agent. At first
The Electrical Engineer.

October 6, 1898.

Glimpse this may seem a quite rational question. Our colleges teach us how to administer opium and its various derivatives, therefore the necessity for an opium society does not exist, but do our colleges teach us anything about electricity worthy of the subject? The answer to this question is quite unnecessary in the presence of the members of our association. Anyone should be depended upon to prescribe and administer the ordinary remedies to carry out any regulation form of treatment. But I, for one, should fear to trust myself to the tender mercies of the general practitioner of to-day did he, in his wisdom, consider it necessary to use this agent, electricity, unless he had paid some special attention to the matter. The contention is an absurdity unworthy of America, the vaunted land of progress, and of Buffalo, the electrical city. In my own enlightened land, even, we are more enlightened than that. This is an age of specialization.

"The old-time practitioner, then the physician and surgeon, seems passing away. Surgery is being divided and subdivided, until at one time we feared that we were to be confronted with an appendix surgeon. Our patients are reaping the benefit of all this. Why then, should we call a halt? No! Let onward be our cry. The time is past when a physician, the proud possessor of a solitary magnetoelectric machine, turned by a crank, considered his armamentarium electricum quite complete. One has but to glance at our programme to see what extent electricity may be used to advantage. A programme such as ours should prove a perfect revelation to him who has hitherto lived up to this progressive age. Could such a programme or one-hundredth part of it be intelligently discussed in any other existing society to-day not dealing distinctly with the subject? No, I greatly fear it would be a hidden book, a stumbling block.

"The hope of the future lies in those who are now thronging wisdom's halls, and it is a subject for congratulation that this association is to be asked to take action, bringing the needs of the hour before the authorities competent to deal with them. The student will find in our programme the man who has been successful in his professional career. But even he, unless endowed by these inestimable blessings, common sense, patience and gentleness, will find his efforts unavailing, and he must be a close observer of nature and her laws, seeking to assist rather than to combat her. Electricity is a agent most powerful for well or woe. A great responsibility rests upon our educators, and the sooner they awake from their strange lethargy the better it will be for our reputation as an enlightened, progressive, scientific profession. The commercial world has taken such advantage of the rapid strides of electricity as a science with fixed laws that we have laid ourselves open to the charge of neglect. Let us hasten to make amends for the past and remove some of the reproaches that rest on us, this, the noblest profession in this fair country.

"Our association was organized some eight years ago, because it was felt that the subject of electro-therapeutics could not be discussed in any existing society in a scientific and practical manner without controversial digressions of no value whatever. It was felt, and felt strongly, that electricity had been left too long to the charlatan, the incompetent and the unscrupulous. It was also felt that we had another foe of hardly less dangerous character, the over-zealous.

"To combat all these and cultivate and promote knowledge of electricity wherever it can be of service in medicine, electro-therapy has a recognized standing, inasmuch as special departments devoted to it are to be found in our public hospitals. I have had the honor to organize and now to preside over four such departments in as many hospitals, and more intelligent inquiries are being made by the students of the various medical colleges. All of whom have access to my clinics. We must overlook this fact that many a stronger society than our own has come to grief, the clique. And the furtherance of personal ambition or personal designs must be shunned."

All the suggestions embodied in the address were referred to the executive council of the association.

The programme for the afternoon was made up of a series of ten-minute talks on "Electro-Therapy," and the subject was one to attract a widespread interest among members of the medical fraternity.

Dr. G. Betton Massey, of Philadelphia, presented a paper on "The Galvanic Current in Gynecology." The next paper was on "Surgical Uses of Electricity," by Dr. Charles Rea Dickson, president of the association.

Dr. Robert Newman, of New York, presented a paper on "Electrotherapy in Genito- uriary Diseases." Dr. G. Betton Massey spoke on "Treatment of Malignant Growth by Means of Electricity."

A paper by Dr. Louis A. Weigel, of Rochester, on "Orhopedic Uses of Electricity," was followed by a paper by Dr. Rockwell on "Nervous Diseases of the Nervous System Treated by Electricity."

The association adjourned at 4:30 p.m. and proceeded by special car to visit the power house and storage batteries of the Buffalo Railway Company.

A short business session of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association was held from 8 to 9 p.m., at which the following officers were elected: President, Dr. Francis B. Bishop, of Washington; first vice-president, Dr. Ernest Wende, of Buffalo; second vice-president, Dr. W. H. White, of Boston; secretary, Dr. A. C. Germain, of Auburn; treasurer, Dr. Richard T. Nunn, of Savannah, Ga.; executive council, Robert Newman, of New York, and Dr. G. Betton Massey, of Philadelphia, three years; Dr. A. D. Rockwell and Dr. Willard J. Morton, of New York, two years; Dr. Charles R. Dickison, of Toronto, and Dr. Frederic Schreiber, of Stanford, Conn., one year. Washington was selected for the convention next year, to be held September 19-21, 1899.

Dr. Lucien Howe entertained the men of the association at the conclusion of the business meeting. A smoker was given at Dr. Howe's home, corner of Delaware avenue and Huron street, which was largely attended.

Third Day's Sessions.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Wende, chairman of the local committee on arrangements, for his untiring and efficient service. The convention adjourned.

A general vote of thanks was also adopted, expressing the association's deep appreciation of the courtesy and hospitality extended to the members during the convention in Buffalo.

At 10 o'clock the executive session adjourned and President Dickison called the scientific session to order. The first two papers on the programme were read by title. They were both by Drs. Georges Gautier and J. Larat, of Paris, France, the first on "The Hydro-Electric Bath with Sinusoidal Current in Disease," the second on "The Use of Hot Air and Light Bath in Disease."

A paper was read by the newly-elected president of the association, Dr. Francis B. Bishop, of Washington, on "Alternating Dynamo Currents."

Dr. Margaret A. Cleaves, of New York, read a paper on "The Electrical Arc Bath." A paper by Dr. J. H. Kellogg, of Battle Creek, Mich., on "The Electric Light Bath" was read by title. The next paper was by John J. Carty, of New York, on "Some Suggestions on
the Possibilities of Cataphoresis.” Mr. Carty gave a short, practical talk, which was very interesting.

A paper by Dr. G. Herbert Burnham, of Toronto, Canada, on “Electricity in the Treatment of Certain Diseases of the Eye,” was read by title.

Then came a paper by Nikola Tesla, read by Dr. White, of Boston. The subject was “A High Frequency Oscillator for Electro-Therapeutic Purposes.”


Dr. Newman, of New York, and Dr. Nunn, of Savannah, Ga., were appointed a committee by the president to conduct the president-elect, Dr. Bishop, of Washington, to the chair. Before turning over to his successor the gavel and other insignia of office Dr. Dickson took occasion to thank the association for its kindness and courtesy to him during his term of office.

The afternoon was devoted to an excursion and reception under the direction of the local committee of arrangements.

On Friday afternoon the members were conducted over the power house of the Niagara Falls Power Company by Coleman Sellers, E. D., president and chief engineer, who made the visit a most interesting and instructive one. On returning to the hotel a meeting was held and Dr. C. R. Dickson was requested to convey to Dr. Sellers the thanks of the association for his courtesy.

Those who remained visited on Saturday morning Power Station No. 2 of the Niagara Falls Hydroelectric Power and Manufacturing Company, being conducted over it by the chief electrician, who fully explained all the appliances.


The Eighth annual meeting was unanimously conceded the most successful and enjoyable that has been held, and the prospects for the association were never brighter or more encouraging.