MEN and BOOKS

J. S. HELMCKEN, M.R.C.P.(Lond.), L.S.A.

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When next the British Columbia Medical Association meets in Victoria, B.C., it is to be hoped that the medical men of this Province will be moved to do especial honour to the memory of J. S. Helmcken one of its truly great members, and one of Canada's truly great men. For though an Englishman by birth, a Canadian only by adoption, Helmcken had in full measure the capacity that the best men of his native country have always shown, of becoming so completely identified with the country of their adoption, whatever it may be, that they give their complete allegiance as citizens to that country to the exclusion of every other, including their own native land. It is this quality that has made the British one of the best colonizers and settlers in history, that made the Englishmen of the North American Colonies in 1776 choose to live and die as Americans, in preference to, and in defiance of, their own native country of Britain; that has led to the formation of definite national types, Canadian, Australian, South African, which will owe nothing but their ancestry to Britain, and acknowledge a fealty only of sentiment and tradition. When it comes to the final decision, these men and women are Canadians, Australians, South Africans, not British, still less English or Scotch.