

of the boards, to find how many men there were who passed on the three sessions. In this matter, the boards should not be behind the leading universities, which no longer recognize the year with a physician as the equivalent of a session. And, in the second place, the change should be made in the interests of the schools themselves. On no possible scheme can you arrange a satisfactory three-session course. Either a man pays too much attention to his primary subjects in the first two sessions and leaves the important final branches for one short session, or he tries in his second session to work hard at both and ends in a muddled condition which unfits him for either. The prolongation of the session to nine months, as now exists in some of the schools in the Province of Quebec, must ultimately come in all the colleges. How the foolish habit arose of giving six months' vacation we need not stop to inquire—the folly of it is too evident to need remark; and we can safely predict that within ten years the nine months' course will be universal, either as a continuous session, as at Laval University, or by making the now optional summer session compulsory.

3. The control of the licensing power is the most important function of the medical boards. A uniform system has not yet been adopted in all the provinces. In too many the possession of a degree, obtained after a proper course of study, still entitles the holder to the license, all others having to submit to examination. In the Province of Ontario the most advanced position has been reached, and the one road to registration is through the examination conducted by a board appointed by the medical council. To this the other provinces must ultimately come. It is what the profession in Great Britain has been striving after for years, and so far striving in vain against the power of corporations and vested interests. In the Province of Quebec the medical board accepts degrees from the local universities to which it sends assessors—after the manner of the British Medical Council, who report on the nature of the examinations. Others than the holders of such degrees must submit to examination. Although this method has not worked badly, it is but a make-shift, and must finally be replaced by a central board of examiners, who shall test the qualifications of all candidates. Unfortunately the prevalent conditions of that province are such that

dual boards will be needed, one for the French and one for the English.

In carrying out the details of a central examining board, there are inevitable difficulties which at first cause worry and discontent, but, with patience and mutual forbearance, gradually vanish. The choice of suitable examiners is a delicate matter, and one on which the schoolmen are apt to air grievances more or less just. They certainly should not be selected at random from the members of the council. A few years ago a friend of mine was nominated examiner in chemistry at the Quebec Board. He was a remarkably able practitioner, but with a very indistinct and hazy knowledge of chemistry, and it was hard to say who was most uneasy at the examination, Dr——— or the students. Teachers in the schools have good grounds for complaint when the Boards select as examiner on special subjects—such as anatomy, chemistry, physiology, and pathology—men who have been for years in active practice without any possibility of keeping their own knowledge on these subjects fresh and practical, and who to “brush up” require to work as hard, may be, as the poor candidates. With the more practical branches these difficulties do not exist, and the Councils have a wide field for selection. Where special technical knowledge is needed, it would be preferable even to override the law which forbids the selection by the Boards of any teacher as an examiner on his own subject. For the “Staats Examen,” in Germany, the professors in different departments are usually chosen by the government to conduct the examination in their special branches. The point is one to which the Boards should attend carefully in the future. They lose the respect of the profession and of the students in nominating as examiners men without special qualifications in certain fields.

The examinations for the license should be made in all respects as practical as possible, but to do this a Provincial Board must possess its own building and appliances, and make arrangements with hospital authorities to have free access to a sufficient number of patients. As the work is done primarily in the interests of the public, it is clearly the duty of the Legislatures to assist in making suitable provision, and it seems probable that Ontario, the first to set the example of a one-portal licensing system, will also be the first to have a