

MEDICAL EDUCATION

REPORT OF THE ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
ON JUDGE HODGINS' REPORT ON
MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Ontario Medical Association is a voluntary organization, now in its thirty-eighth year, and representative of the best ideals of the medical profession in ethics, practice and education. It includes in its membership the vast majority of the most active and best informed in all branches of the medical profession. It has stood firmly for the rights of the people in matters pertaining to public health, and the suppression of irregular and ignorant classes of practitioners, who seek to prey upon the credulity of their clients. The objects and aims of this Association are to promote a scientific spirit among its members, to maintain a high code of medical ethics, and to encourage sound medical legislation. Animated by these motives the Ontario Medical Association respectfully begs to submit the following expressions of opinion.

I. The Public Welfare.

On page 4 of Justice Hodgins' report the following words are found: "I have, therefore, endeavored to consider them all from the point of view of the public, and with an appreciation both of the responsibility of the Province for the public health, and its duty, and equally important, of allowing the individual citizen reasonable freedom of action."

The foregoing position cannot be too highly commended. The chief end of all legislation is the protection of the people. In all matters pertaining to the treatment of all forms of diseases and injuries this can only be secured by exacting from all who would undertake the duties of attending and treating the sick or injured the highest possible standard of training and scientific education that modern medical scientific knowledge can furnish. Such legislation will not only protect the public, but it will, in a very large measure, protect the profession against slothful methods in its ranks and overcrowding, and the evils that tend to flow from these. No one should, therefore, be permitted to practise any form of healing who does not obtain the Ontario license.

II. Vested Rights.

On the very important subject of Vested Rights, Mr. Justice Hodgins seems to lay down a sound principle on page 6 when he employs these words: "Whatever might be the position of those outside the regular medical profession at the time when Sir James Whitney made this promise, it is not possible after that date to say that any practitioners have established themselves in Ontario in such a manner as to have secured a status or to have been possessed of anything known as a vested right to practise."

The promise here referred to is the statement made by Sir James Whitney on 30th June, 1913, that he would appoint a Commission to investigate medical education and practice in Ontario. With this position of the Commissioner, that those who have commenced any form of