

## Prince Edward Island.

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### MEDICAL RECIPROCITY.

THE ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL for October is to hand. Your remarks on interprovincial reciprocity are timely and good. It is time the profession fully realized that in matters of medical education the British North American Act leaves it in the hands of the Provincial Legislatures to enact all laws relating to education. All honour to Ontario and the Medical Council of Ontario for what they have done already towards elevating the standard, and bringing order out of confusion. They have set every other province in this Dominion a noble example. Let Quebec follow suit, and it will be an easy matter to procure reciprocity. The colleges must not obstruct the way any longer, for their mission is to educate and confer degrees, and these degrees are no longer regarded as conferring a legal right to practise. Look at New York, Pennsylvania and many of the other States of the union, ignoring their own as well as all other diplomas, for the sake of having one uniform and legal authority to practise. We must come to it, and any member of the profession who will not cheerfully aid the movement and support the law in his province, is a drone that will never leave his impress in improving and benefiting his profession. The paltry amount required as annual dues ought not be considered as a drawback to the prosperity of the members of the profession in each province.

While there is an evident discontent in the minds of some practitioners in Ontario against the constituted authorities, I am glad to notice that they are few, and that the great bulk of the profession is in harmony and support of the Council. This is as it should be, and your journal will have the effect of enlightening the profession here and elsewhere upon what is being done. There are men in every community who are adepts at destroying and pulling down, but will not add a single brick to the structure to build it up. It is an easy matter to destroy in a single day—the work of a lifetime—what required many years to complete, but very hard, indeed, to build and lay good founda-

tion to build upon for the future. Let the medical men of Ontario take good heed and good care that they will not lose their medical laws; if they prove true to themselves they will not do so, and the Legislature will see the absurdity of the contention of those who are opposed to the present law. Improve it, make it better if you can, but don't destroy it. The opposition to your law is frequently quoted against us, but, fortunately, there is no friction in the administration of our law, and so far the registered practitioners are a unit in support of it. One common standard of curriculum and education in each province, with examination as the only legal authority to practise, and powers for the various Councils to correct abuses, such as the "contract system," and other questions where ethics ought to rule, will raise our profession to an honourable status beyond the region of the quack and secret nostrum vendor, and all parties who would lower us to the level of *trades* and *artisans*.

### QUACKERY.

A weekly journal, *The Montreal Witness*, has recently declared "that Montreal is infested with gamblers preying upon the morally weak in society." This Dominion is infested with quacks, patent medicines and secret nostrum vendors and the whole press bow down and worship them—allowing the ignorant and morally weak in society to be allured and decoyed by impudent assertion—whole columns of audacious trash and balderdash dished out to the community to entrap the unwary, and the press who are paid and subsidized by these concerns are dumb as an oyster. On other matters they are loud in proclaiming the moral code. If a hungry man steals a loaf of bread, or an intemperate man commits a brawl and disturbs the peace, the matter is heralded abroad, but the quacks who are daily advertising miraculous cures and defrauding the people on every hand are hailed as benefactors. The medical profession alone are expected to combat the evils of quackery and too often do they experience ingratitude from the public at large for their efforts in defending the public. Why is this? Simply because the quack has something to advertise and sell, and because the press is amply rewarded for advertising, they