

ances inform us that the primitive doctor, or "Medicine Man" was not that self-conscious fraud and humbug knowingly duping his credulous patients he is commonly thought to have been; but a person who had a real belief in his own powers and cures; and that those powers and cures were, when genuine, generally, if not always, attributable to hypnotism, especially, to that phase of it known as suggestion. A state of hypnosis was induced in his patient by the monotonous droning of his medicine song and the noise of his rattle, and when in this condition his attempt to extract the spirit of the disease from the patient's body, and his statement that he had presently accomplished it, acted suggestively upon the imagination of the patient and effected his cure. "Extremes meet," and there is nothing new under the sun, we are told, and the school of Nancy, which is founded upon the suggestive phase of hypnotism is not a new practice but an unconscious return, or rather I should say, it is an unconscious modification and extension of these primitive methods which were in vogue among our savages here up to a few years ago, and may be to this day for aught I know to the contrary.

But enough on this head. It is my intention rather to bespeak your consideration to-night of a point or two which I, in common with many of the members of the profession, have very much at heart, and which I deem of such importance as to merit our most careful consideration and endorsement.

I have reference in particular to:—

I. The Canadian Medical Protective Association;

II. The Federal Health Bill;

III. The Dominion Medical Council;

IV. The Treatment of Inebriates.

With regard to the first, The Canadian Medical Protective Association, I would desire to urge upon members the strong claims this Association has upon the profession. I am among those who believe in the need of such an Association, and that it may be made a valuable means of assisting and protecting members of our profession from wrongful actions-at-law, to which we are all of us at all times liable; actions brought by irresponsible persons for alleged malpractice, or by unscrupulous persons for the purpose of obtaining money under threats of injury to our professional character.

It is well known that a medical man's professional prospects depend to a very large extent, if not entirely, upon his professional reputation, and it is not difficult, therefore, for unprincipled persons to attempt to levy blackmail upon him by threatening to bring action against him for malpractice or professional incapacity, which action, though wholly groundless and undeserved, may have the most disastrous effects upon his career and pocket.