

little gum tragacanth, be made to combine with quinine, iron, aloes, &c. When conjoined with lime or gallic acid, it may be used for flatulent distension of the colon, especially when this is accompanied by looseness of the bowels. (*Guy's Hospital Reports*, January, 1870.)—*Practitioner*.

The Dominion Medical Journal,

A MONTHLY RECORD OF

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE.

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TORONTO, JULY, 1870.

MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

We learn from the medical journals of Great Britain, that the profession there is striving to obtain a representative Council and a *single examining Board*, but the medical corporations are so numerous and so powerful, as to completely thwart the efforts being made; but we hope the agitation will be continued, until that simple act of justice is obtained. It should be comparatively easy to obtain an act of the kind asked for, in a country where the profession is free from those excrescences by which the health and fair fame of the body medical in this country have been so tarnished; but when we see how strongly the medical corporations of Scotland oppose the establishment of a representative council and a *single examining Board*, we think we may fairly congratulate ourselves, that we have obtained for Ontario, before these corporations became more numerous or powerful, that prize for which our friends at home are yet vainly striving. There is no doubt but each decade would have quintupled the difficulty; and when we call to mind the opposition encountered by the promoters of our bill, from the few vested rights with which it clashed, and the obnoxious associations forced upon us by the representatives of the adverse interests, we may well feel thankful at the results attained.

Medical legislation in this country encountered peculiar circumstances, not met with in Britain; for, besides the regular medical corporations, some of which always opposed the establishment of a central board, we had certain *medical sects* recognized by law, with *licensing boards* in full operation,

whose licentiates when they went to the country stood before the people, on a par with the graduates of the regular schools, and it was thought and said by many persons, that these boards constituted side doors, through which, timid and imperfectly prepared candidates found their way into the profession, and secured legal recognition and protection. Hence, when parliament was asked to give the regular profession a central board, it said—"No; we must legislate for the whole people, and if it be true, as we have heard, that these side doors exist, we must extend the operation of the bill to all branches of the profession, and see that all our licentiates are equally well prepared to deal with the lives and health of the people." It was in this spirit therefore, and in opposition to the wishes of the profession that the bill was made to include all the medical sects. A few members of the regular profession, foreseeing more than others, how the opposition to a single board would increase with advancing years, reluctantly acquiesced in the views of the legislature, and accepted the bill in its present shape, knowing well, that it is very much easier to get an imperfect act amended, than to get a new one, however good, first recognized. The passage of the bill is a matter of history, but its influence on the profession is yet an experiment. We confess, however, that while we have always been opposed to the introduction of the different sects into the bill, and their amalgamation into one Council, we feel strongly disposed to tolerate the combination in view of its influence on the numbers and qualifications of those entering the profession. For, while we were prepared to find some reduction in the numbers licensed, owing to the greater uniformity of the examination, and the usual dread which students feel at being examined by others than their own teachers, we were *not at all* prepared for the immense falling off, exhibited by a comparison of the numbers graduated during the last four or five years. We have been at some pains to collate the figures, which, through the courtesy of gentlemen connected with the graduating institutions we are able to present here for the satisfaction of our readers, bearing in mind the fact, that all who were passed by any of the Boards and Universities mentioned below, prior to 1870, became legally qualified to practice medicine in Ontario, on presenting their certificates to the Governor, while of those graduated in 1870, none can be qualified but the forty-two who passed the examination of the Medical Council.

The following are the numbers graduated by the several institutions during each of the four years mentioned; viz:—