

The State has been substantially rid of the travelling charlatan. The present able Secretary, Dr. McDavitt, informs me that the Medical Census just completed is accurate, and that the present operation of the law is quite faultless. We therefore conclude that in one State at least the number of physicians have been reduced to a number commensurate with the demands of the people.

The work of the New York Board is attracting considerable attention. Notwithstanding pronounced opposition and many embarrassments, the act is destined to strengthen the character of the profession in this State. From advance sheets kindly furnished for use in this paper, I observe the following verification of a position taken by the Secretary, James Russell Parsons, in his 1893 report. He reiterates that the records of the past year conclusively prove the position taken in his 1893 report: "That the new law proves a barrier to the ingress of the incompetent, has operated to raise the standard of preliminary education, improve the methods of teaching and terms of study of the different schools of medicine."

The following resolution from the President and Secretary of the Board to the State Medical Society is significant, and should meet the approval and support of every member of the profession of this great State: "*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Board the best interests of the public and medical profession would be materially advanced by gradually increasing the minimum of requirements as to general preliminary education, till no candidate be entitled to matriculate in 1897 at a degree-granting medical school in this State that has not completed at least a full high school course."

I am pleased to note that this bill has already passed the Senate in New York, and is in a fair way of becoming a law. If it becomes operative it will operate to improve the character of matriculates in New York schools, and will be followed by similar legislation in other States. Greater co-operation is necessary between different state boards, as it is essential that harmony of policy exist as far as practicable. As in foreign countries their relations to the profession and teaching bodies is most important, their functions being that of professional censors of the conduct of the members of the profession, and guarding at the same time the avenues of entrance to professional work. It being the duties of these boards to protect the people from professional incompetency and charlatanry, the duties are briefly comprehended in the performance of the following duties: 1. In establishing a minimum curriculum for all colleges whose alumni apply for a license to practice. 2. The individual examination of all persons wishing to practice medicine in the commonwealth. 3. A professional censorship

granting the right to refuse or revoke a license for incompetency and gross unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.

As this form of legislation becomes more fully understood and appreciated by the better class of schools, it will be observed as one of the most certain and reliable avenues of placing before the profession of the country the character of work being done in all colleges whose alumni apply for a license. A school doing honest work has little to fear at the hands of these boards: upon the contrary, as suggested in my former paper, it will be found that the proportion of applicants able to pass successful examinations will be a certain index of the character of instruction afforded students in the respective schools.

While the proportion of applicants successful is only eighty-two per cent., it will be found that from the schools heretofore operating under a high grade of requirements that, thus far at least in the work of these boards, nearly all graduates are successful in obtaining a license upon examination. In substantiation of this conclusion I again submit data, using therein the same schools as in my former paper.

The following table indicates the proportion of students successful on examination from alumni of schools heretofore operating under the three years curricula.

Colleges.	Examined.	Licensed.	Rejected.	Per cent.
Harvard.....	31	31	0	1.000
Columbia.....	123	118	5	.952
Univ. of Penna....	126	123	3	.976
Univ. of Michigan..	83	78	5	.940
Northwestern Univ.	26	22	4	.846
Univ. of Minnesota.	149	148	1	.992
Totals.....	538	520	18	.964

I cannot but conclude, gentlemen, that efficient medical legislation will operate to bring about the following results, as applied to the profession and public.

1. It will protect the people by affording a profession of greater intelligence.

2. It will suppress charlatanry.

3. It will reduce the number of persons practising medicine to a number commensurate with the demands of the people.

4. It will reduce the number of medical colleges, at present far above legitimate demands.

5. It will raise the general standard of professional fitness, assuring us a professional prestige in the future, becoming the most important of the learned professions.

In conclusion, we appeal to the profession to renew their efforts in securing efficient medical legislation, believing its operations will result most beneficially to both the public and profession.