

Majesty's name upon April 2nd, 1867, by Frederick Seymour, Governor, at New Westminster, B.C. The Act is a short one, and the preamble is not by any means the least important clause. It runs: "Whereas it is expedient that persons requiring medical aid should be enabled to distinguish qualified from unqualified persons, therefore be it enacted." This clause shows that the idea in the minds of the early legislators of this Province, when they passed our first Medical Act, was that it was more for the protection of the public from incompetent practitioners that such a law was necessary, than, as is so often stated at the present day, to create the members practising our profession into a closed corporation. It then provided for the appointment of a Registrar by the Governor. Under the Act of 1867 the Deputy Provincial Secretary for the time being acted in this capacity. The qualifications necessary to enable a medical practitioner to register were on the broadest lines, a three years' course of study being practically the only requisite, provided, of course, that the applicant had graduated at the College to which he belonged. The Act provided for the registration upon application of any person possessing a diploma or license from any school, college, society, or faculty of medicine or surgery in the United Kingdom, or a foreign country, provided such school or college required a compulsory course of study extending over not less than three years. The fee for registration was \$10. Under this ordinance, it was unlawful for any one to assume the title of physician or surgeon, or doctor of medicine, unless he was registered, and those doing so without registering were liable to a fine not exceeding \$100. Nor could any unregistered person collect fees for services rendered in any court of law; but so long as he did not assume any of the titles enumerated, there does not seem to have been any obstruction to his practising without registering. A copy of the register was ordered to be published yearly in the *B. C. Gazette*. After a careful search I am forced to the conclusion that for some years, at any rate, the Act was more or less of a dead letter, few, if any, medical men taking the trouble to register. The *Gazette* of December 16th, 1869, published at Victoria, contained the following:

"VICTORIA, B.C., Dec. 10th, 1869.—In compliance with section 5 of the Medical Ordinances, 1867, the register of the medical practitioners registered under that ordinance is herewith published for general information. No registration has taken place during the present year. (Signed)

CHARLES GOOD, Registrar.