

Harvey, Hunter, Jenner or Laennec. But we are answerable for the present state and standing of our profession, and without boasting I may say, that in Ontario to-day, we have as complete a system of medical education, and as strict an observance of medical ethics, as can be found anywhere else, and it is with the view of making these still more perfect, that I intend commenting upon them to-day.

Certainly a good educational system will not of itself guarantee first-class doctors, for time alone can bring us the large population that affords such ample material for clinical study existing in the hospitals of large European and American cities. Nevertheless efficient hospital accommodation may now be found in our larger cities and even smaller places, such as Brantford, Guelph, Stratford, Belleville and Brockville are possessed of well equipped institutions for the reception of the sick.

I would also venture to assert, that nowhere else is such a large amount of self-denying zeal shown by medical practitioners in order to properly prepare themselves for their duties towards their patients by keeping abreast with the latest advances and improved methods of treatment. Every spring witnesses a steady stream of young doctors, journeying eastward to England and the Continent, in order to enrich their store of medical knowledge by observing the methods adopted by the great master-minds in medicine. Another contingent wend their way towards the south, for the purpose of sharing the rich harvest awaiting them at the clinics in New York, and other large American cities. These young men have already spent four years in the pursuit of their medical studies and it redounds to their credit that they are willing to add another year or more to their collegiate life, before they begin actual practice in Ontario. Besides those mentioned, there is also another class, including older practitioners, who leave their homes in either town or country, and almost annually visit one of the great medical centres to refresh their memories, and to witness the actual technique of new and improved operations.

All honor, I say, to such men who are willing to sacrifice so much time and money for the public weal, and few other countries can produce an equal amount of self-enforced post-graduate education. Such being the case this question may naturally be asked: "Are the laws and regula-

tions relating to medical men, so constructed that they will encourage the retention of the best medical talent in Ontario, and at the same time tend to keep away an inferior class of medical men?"

This, I take it, should be the main object of medical legislation, in the interest alike of the public and the medical profession. Such, I believe, was the motive which actuated the promoters of the Ontario Medical Council, an institution which has done much towards elevating the standard of medical education in the past, and which I hope will be productive of still greater good in the future. It is because I have the greatest possible respect for the members of that Council and think them desirous of acting in an impartial manner, that I venture to say, that the first object mentioned was not kept in view, when they enforced the rule excluding men who possess British diplomas from practising in Ontario, and furthermore that the latter has not been fully attained, as long as advertising medical men are allowed to roam throughout the country, and grow rich upon proceeds procured from the purses of a credulous portion of the unsuspecting public. These are two questions which are worthy of your consideration upon an important occasion like the present, when our members are gathered together from all parts of the Province for the discussion of mutual interest.

1st. With regard to the non-registration of British Diplomas, I claim that a mistake was made when this legislation was brought into force, regardless of the scientific standing and severity of the examinations conducted in the institution granting the medical or surgical diploma. While I admit that we were formerly lax in allowing the indiscriminate registration of licentiates of the Apothecaries' Society, and other inferior qualifications, it does seem a grievance that an M. D. from London University or a Fellow or Member of the College of Physicians or Surgeons in Great Britain should be required to undergo a further test of his ability, at a very considerable expense, before he shall be allowed to practise in Ontario. This is not the only reason why I take exception to the legislation in question, but also because I learn from conversation with medical students that it will tend to lessen the number of young doctors who will take post-graduate courses abroad. The fact that a British diploma exempted men