

was the formation of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia in 1854. This association grew out of, or rather was an expansion of, the Medical Society of Halifax, which had been formed in 1844.

Between 1828 and 1854 the population had nearly doubled, chiefly through natural increase, and the number of practitioners had risen from 65 to 120. An analysis of the list of practitioners in 1854 indicates that more than one-half of them had been born in the province. Of the total number 50 per cent. had been educated in the United States, 35 per cent. in Great Britain, and 17 per cent. were provincial licentiates. During this period the medical supply reached its lowest ebb, because but few practitioners came from abroad, and the cost of a complete medical education in a foreign country was greater than many Nova Scotians could afford. Quackery became prevalent and offensive. The petitions of medical men to the legislature had been disregarded, and the conviction became general that the only way to secure a remedy was by united action; hence the formation of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia.

The next period, extending from 1854 to 1872, when a new Medical Act of great importance was secured, is characterized by a less rapid extension of the population, owing to the fact that the era of emigration from the province had begun. But for the people who remained there was a better medical supply.

The new medical society soon made its influence felt. For some years its efforts were concentrated upon safe-guarding the interests of the profession and the promotion of measures to improve the public health. In 1856 the old Medical Act was amended, and new provisions were added to repress unqualified practice. A tariff of fees was framed; a code of ethics adopted; better remuneration for public services was secured; health legislation was improved, and an act for the collection of vital statistics was obtained.

The union of the provinces in 1867 widened the outlook of the profession; and the new order of things was promptly signalized by the formation, that year, of this Canadian Medical Association. And here permit me to refer to the fact that the honor of first presiding over the deliberations of this important organization was accorded to a Nova Scotian, a gentleman of high standing in his profession, but one whose widely-recognized pre-eminence as a political leader and constructive statesman has caused his professional career to be almost forgotten—I refer, of course, to the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper.