

Halifax to elevate the standard of medical education in this Province.

It was felt that amendment of the Medical Acts was desirable for the elevation of that standard, but that such improved laws would be attended by some hardship to the young men of the Province, desiring to study medicine, and by some public injury through a scarcity in supply of qualified medical practitioners, unless a Medical School were opened in Halifax to save our students the greater expense of going abroad; and indeed at that time the most accessible schools, namely, those in the United States, were far from being all that was thought desirable, their period of study being too short and their requirements as regards preliminary education being nil.

Halifax at that time had a body of medical men of very marked ability, including Drs. Charles Tupper, A. P. Reid, A. J. Cowie, W. J. Almon, D. McN. Parker, Edward Farrell, W. B. Slayter, H. Gordon, R. S. Black, Alexander Hattie, and J. R. DeWolf; and to those may be added George Lawson, Professor of Chemistry at Dalhousie, a very thorough man in both Chemistry and Botany, with extensive experience as a teacher in Edinburgh, where he was conspicuous in the introduction of laboratory methods in the study of Biology and also in Kingston, Ontario, where he had taken part in the inauguration of the Medical Department of Queen's University.

Nearly all of these men had received more or less of their professional education in Edinburgh, London, Dublin or Paris, and the standard which they demanded was far higher than that generally prevailing on this Continent.

It was to promote such a progressive aim in medical education, and it

was through the enthusiasm of men of such ability, training, and ideals, that the Medical School at Halifax took its rise, and that school has never yet departed from the high ideals which attended its birth.

From the reorganization of Dalhousie onward, the establishment of a medical school at Halifax was constantly engaging the attention of the profession, and the man whose services proved most helpful to that end was Dr. (now Sir Charles) Tupper.

The service with which a medical man in this Province is most likely to credit Sir Charles Tupper are: (1) His defence of Dalhousie; (2) His advocacy of a Medical School, and (3) his reorganization of the Halifax Hospital, placing it on modern lines and a practical working basis.

Without this last item the establishment of a medical school would have been impossible.

When the question was first mooted about 1863 by the Governors of Dalhousie University the Medical Society of Nova Scotia declared it not feasible, because there was no Anatomy Act, and the clinical facilities were insufficient.

Sir Charles was at one and the same time Provincial Secretary and President of the Medical Society and one of the Governors of Dalhousie University, and his influence was, accordingly, very great and helpful.

In 1867 the school was inaugurated as a Department of Dalhousie University but only as a preparatory school. This, however, was found insufficient to meet the public needs of the Province, and accordingly the full school was organized in 1870.

The following requirements which the founders laid down for the school, prove that its educational aim was high: