

many localities, and scarlet fever and measles have been very much modified in their course.

In view of the advance made in preventive medicine in the past two or three decades, may we not confidently hope that within a few years immunity may be secured from most infectious diseases. Preventive medicine now rests upon a sound and promising basis in Canada. Yet, while all this is true, it is to be regretted that a large number of our inhabitants love the mysterious, the occult, the unscientific, and indulge in the dangerous practice of swallowing patent nostrums, and thereby injuring their health and shortening their lives. Credulity still lives in the minds of many and probably always will. Truth is stranger than fiction, and science has invariably travelled an uphill road.

In the Ontario Medical Act there are certain penal clauses to be found which have enabled the Medical Council of that Province to prosecute, fine and imprison charlatans and men practising medicine without a license, and to erase the name of any physician from the medical register (thus depriving him of the right to practise) who has been convicted, either in Her Majesty's dominions or elsewhere, of any offence which if committed in Canada would be a felony or misdemeanor, or been guilty of any infamous or disgraceful conduct in a professional respect. By virtue of this clause in the Act we have been able in Ontario to suppress quackery and drive from the profession unscrupulous men.

Our Provincial Governments have built beautiful homes for those suffering from mental diseases, and provided the best known treatment for these unfortunates. They have aided hospitals and provided domiciles for the incurable, and keep a strict watch over all. They are alive to the fact that to have a progressive and prosperous nation they must have healthy and intelligent people.

The standard of medical education and the requirements exacted in this country will compare favourably with those of any country in the world. We require as high, and in some instances a higher standard of preliminary education than is demanded in Great Britain. The examination for graduation and also for the license to practise is a severe one, and well calculated to test the knowledge of the candidate. A four-year graded course is required in most of the Provinces; in Ontario, a period of five years must be spent in the study of medicine. On and after the first day of October, 1899, four sessions of eight months each, together with a fifth year spent in clinical and practical work, will be demanded. In the Maritime Provinces they favour the eight months' session, while here in McGill College they give a nine months' course.