

The Canada Lancet

VOL. XLVIII. TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1914 No. 4

EDITORIAL

MEDICAL RECIPROCITY.

The present war has brought this topic to the surface once more in an acute form. Time was when a person holding a British registrable qualification could register in Ontario. The Ontario Medical Council sought and obtained power to discontinue this practice, as many Ontario medical students went to Britain and secured a diploma from some one or other of the colleges and then returned to Ontario, and registered.

This was not an ideal state of affairs and, perhaps, the proper thing to do was to do what was done, namely, end it. But this argument should not be allowed to govern the action of Ontario and Great Britain now. Many changes have taken place in twenty-five or thirty years. The standard of the British qualifications has been decidedly raised. This would justify the Ontario Medical Council in making some modification in the present regulations.

It might transpire on investigation that there may still be some qualification in Britain that could not be admitted as on a par with the Ontario license or a degree from one of the Ontario universities. Surely, however, some arrangement could be reached whereby such qualifications as F.R.C.S., Edin., or Eng., or M.R.C.P., or F.R.C.P., or M.B., Edin., or Lond., and others that could be named, would be admitted to registration in Ontario, and in return the M.C.P.S.O., or M.B., University of Toronto, would be accepted in Britain.

It does not seem quite fair that the medical degree from McGill is accepted, while that from Toronto or Queen's is debarred. Great storms purify the air. The present war has raised new problems that must be dealt with in the British Empire; and one of these problems is that of medical reciprocity. Some of the Canadian provinces have reciprocity, and it has not deranged things medical. We feel confident it would not do so in Ontario.