

the acquisition of a competent knowledge. Can any person regard it as unwise to compel every intending practitioner to study long and carefully the human system in health and in disease? Can any one imagine that without such study it is possible to become acquainted with the fundamental subjects of medical science—which are common to physic in every form—and indispensable to any person who undertakes, in any way whatever, the cure of disease?

These fundamental branches of medical knowledge are the exclusive property of no section of the profession, but belong to the entire body. No Medical "Pathy," or "Ism" can claim as its own, anatomy, physiology, chemistry—a knowledge of the vast array of the diseases flesh is heir to—surgery, midwifery, pathology, medical jurisprudence and toxicology, sanitary science and botany. Yet, not a single member of any of the "pathies" can be trustworthy who has not attained such a knowledge of all these as only a protracted course of study can give. A very important feature, in the present Act, is to secure a high standard in these fundamentals, to which every man must come up, no matter what he calls himself, or where he may have been educated. This must commend itself to all intelligent persons, whether in the profession or out of it, as a great security to the general public. Up to this point all has been common ground, no more essential to one "pathy" than to any other, yet invaluable to all.

It has been represented that under our Medical Bill the Council will have the power to pronounce as infallibly upon disputed points of medical doctrine as other high authorities are supposed by some capable of doing on matters ecclesiastical. This is absolutely incorrect. No sooner will the candidate have passed his examination in the branches common to all, before examiners who may differ widely in many matters, than he is at perfect liberty—nay, he is expressly directed to signify his wish—as to how the remaining part of his examination shall be undergone. If he leans towards any special system, he can elect as his examiners those who are members of the medical body to which he desires to belong, and even further facilities will be granted under the new law in cases where any hardship might be presumed to exist from the want in Ontario at present of special schools. With this special examination no other member of the Board has anything to do,

and having passed it successfully, the name of the candidate is registered under the Act; and whatever his specialty or system, he is entitled to all the privileges of a registered practitioner.

Nothing can be more liberal than this, under which, while no specialty is frowned down because it is a specialty, every man who passes his whole examination goes forth to the public having in his license the best possible guarantee of the thoroughness of his education. He may thereafter practice what he pleases and believe what he pleases medically; no one will seek to interfere with him.

Nothing fairer than this can be imagined; yet this is the essence of our Bill. Under it we can comprehend everybody, provided only he be an educated medical man, and the arrangements of the Medical Council Examining Board are such as to secure in every case the most perfect impartiality. Prior to the passing of the previous Medical Bill we had a very sad state of things—eight or nine different licensing bodies—each having a more or less pecuniary interest in the number of its outgoing licentiates. They were in many cases rival bodies competing with one another, and what was the result? The rushing into the profession of vast numbers of persons with very imperfect preliminary education in many cases, and very imperfect professional education in many more. Greatly reduced numbers, it is true, attend all our schools since the adoption of this *Central Board system*, but how great already has been the gain to the public, and how great will it ultimately be to the Medical Schools themselves by their willing adoption of a high and uniform standard of medical education. The present Bill continues the *Central Board system*, and the profession with rare unanimity accord it a very hearty support.

Another feature of the Bill is the imposing of a trifling tax on medical men, fixed at from \$1 to \$2 a year to enable the Council to lower very greatly the present high charges levied upon students going up for examination.

The number of Homœopathic and Eclectic representatives have not been diminished. The old number is retained to show that every desire for fair play exists.

The question then remains:—If the public are guaranteed an educated profession, are its members of every section not entitled to some degree of protection? No man who has passed the Board, and