

and vesting it in the Federal Government, and the appointment of a Dominion Medical Board; or, secondly, the establishing of Medical Councils for each province, which shall appoint a Central Examining Board similar to that of Ontario, and when this is done let representatives from each provincial council meet, say, in Ottawa, and fix one uniform standard of medical studies to be adopted by all the provinces. Now, as to the first, I think it is entirely out of the question, and can be put aside as utterly impracticable, as I feel sure the local legislatures would never consent to have the control of the educational system taken out of their hands. As to the second proposition, I see no good reason why it should not be adopted. In all the Provincial Medical Acts, so far as I am aware, full power is given the councils to fix the periods of study, make their own curricula, and conduct their own examinations in the way which to them may seem best. Now, all the colleges and universities in the Dominion, so far as I can learn, require four full years of study from a student before going up for his degree, excepting those of British Columbia, whose council is satisfied with three. The teaching in all these institutions is very similar, so that it would not be a difficult task to make them uniform in this respect. Then all that remains to be done is to appoint a Central Medical Examining Board for each province, to examine and recommend for license all graduates, leaving the universities the power of granting degrees only. I shall make no more suggestions on this point, as committees from each province were asked to meet in this city to discuss this matter fully, and I trust their deliberations will result in bringing about the object we all so much desire.

There is one thing that must always be borne in mind, however, and that is, no matter how or by what means reciprocity is brought about, the standard of medical education must always be advancing. This is something we owe both to ourselves and the public, although the latter are slow to appreciate the sacrifices we are constantly making in their behalf. When will they understand that it is more to their interests than ours that medical men should be thoroughly trained and well educated? These same people would never think of retaining an uneducated and in-

competent lawyer to conduct a case when only their money or property was at stake, nor would they employ a poor mechanic to build their houses, nor hire a worthless laborer who was incapable of doing the work entrusted to him; yet they do not hesitate to put themselves under the care of and intrust their health and lives to those travelling charlatans who are without the slightest pretence to a thorough medical training (or as Dr. Campbell, one of the homœopathic members and vice-president of the Ontario Medical Council, puts it, "Those uneducated, incompetent, and dishonest persons who prey on the misfortunes of the sick and distressed; parasites on the profession and plunderers of the people"), and pay enormous fees, and these in advance—such fees that if any reputable physician should dare to charge the one half his bill would be disputed; he would be called an extortioner, and his neighbors warned not to employ him. This is no exaggerated picture, and therefore it behooves us as members of the Canadian Medical Association, having the welfare of the public at heart, to work together not only to elevate the standing of our profession, but to enlighten the public as to who are worthy of their confidence, and to warn them against the incompetent, uneducated, and unlicensed men, as well as the registered quack who sells his license to some foreign institution and robs the deluded people who employ him of both money and health.

In speaking of reciprocity, it has always appeared to me the height of absurdity that in this young country, made up of the different provinces and territories, confederated together under one general government—that in each of these provinces an educated medical man (already registered in one) should be required to pass an examination before being allowed to practise his profession on entering another province, or else be humiliated by being dragged before a magistrate and fined, or sent to prison. What a spectacle it would be and how injurious it would prove were the chief medical officer of one of our transcontinental or inter-provincial railways like the C.P.R. or G.T.R. made to pay a fine for setting a fracture or amputating a limb for some poor unfortunate injured in an accident on one of these roads outside the province in which the medical officer was