

to vindicate the majesty of Right, then neither robust manhood nor stalwart good citizenship can, for a moment, hesitate which course to pursue.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN H. SANGSTER.

Port Perry, Nov. 30th, 1893.

# SOME NOTES ON THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COMPARED WITH ONTARIO.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SIR, New York, the "Empire State," undoubtedly leads in all the professions and markedly so in medicine, both in a long line of distinguished men, advances made in the several branches of medicine, and the soundness of her medical laws.

To compare one of the oldest of the States with this province certainly does not do us justice. New York could boast of considerable importance more than a hundred years ago, when Ontario was practically a *terra incognita*, so if she has a longer list of savants, with larger and costlier medical institutions, it is due to its greater age and does not indicate that evolution in medicine has been more rapid there than here, but that it has gone on to a greater extent.

In many respects we are in advance of New York and likewise in advance of every State in the Union: most notably in our laws. We dwellers in Ontario, both professional and lay, have reason to be thankful for our good statutes, which aim at uplifting the student on the one hand, and suppressing the quack on the other, and well they guard both ends of the line.

In no State are the standards of matriculation and graduation as high as here. Not one of them demands more than a three years' course, while some are satisfied with two and some even with less. Massachusetts, the second oldest State in the Union, gets along with no restrictions on the practice of medicine, no medical law whatever. She likes to know that her pharmacists have sufficient knowledge to dispense the physician's prescriptions, that her cabmen and draymen are reliable, and that the very peddlers are all that could be desired, and restricts them all by license, but the doctors,—ah, they come and go as they

please without leave from the great common-wealth.

The State in consequence is a perfect paradise for quacks; butchers, bakers or cobblers, anyone who may have failed at his own business can practise medicine in cultured Boston. True, he may adorn the gallows some day if murder can be proved against him, but the game is worth the candle.

Prior to the year 1891 the college diploma, obtained after two or three years' study, was sufficient license to practise in New York, but the laws of that year put medical education on a much sounder basis. A three years' course is now demanded, that is, actual attendance on three full courses of lectures comprising all the essential branches, or two full courses of lectures with three years' actual study with a practising physician.

This law gives the State Board of Regents full licensing power, which is exercised after this manner. The State associations of each of the three schools, the regular, the homoeopathic and the eclectic, name fourteen or more nominees from whom the Board of Regents choose seven from each school to be committees for examination purposes. Each committee submit to the Regents a list of questions according to their particular tenets, and from these a suitable number are chosen for the examination; the same standard of excellence, as near as possible, is observed throughout.

The Committee mark the answers and give the results to the Board of Regents who issue the licenses. An entrance examination is required but the Regents hold only the final, for which a fee of \$25 is charged. Practitioners are compelled to register their names in the county in which they practise.

It is unnecessary to compare our own excellent regulations with these laws. The five years graded course demanded by the Council is, I think, none too much in which to get a good foundation for practice. It undoubtedly seems a hardship to the students but they will learn to thank their far-seeing task-masters.

The medical schools of New York State rebound materially to her credit. They represent immense wealth and most of them are thoroughly and elegantly equipped. To comply with the State law they all require a three years course of study,