

and brought together, and became subject to one central authority, viz., the Medical Council of Ontario, made up of representatives elected and appointed from the general profession, the medical schools and universities, and also from the Homoeopathic and Eclectic bodies. This Act came in force in the year 1868, and gave the Council power not only to make the standard of all the examinations, but to appoint examiners to conduct them; and I am happy to say that from that time till the present the standard of medical education has been rising year by year, not only in Ontario, but over the whole Dominion, until to-day in Ontario we have a curriculum standard equal to that existing in any country in the world, and a Medical Act to enforce it, which is the envy of the United States, and which England has tried in vain for years to adopt. I am sorry indeed to find that a hostile feeling has arisen against the Council through some clauses added to the Act in 1891, which feeling I would be glad to see removed. But while I am aware that a few faults are to be found, I am also aware that a great many virtues exist in the Act as it now stands, and it behooves the whole profession to see that no action is taken to impair its usefulness, detract from the dignity or lessen the influence of the Medical Council, which is the safeguard of medical education in Ontario, and which exerts an influence over the whole Dominion, for every province would suffer should the Council be done away with and a return to free trade in medicine follow, as it would most assuredly do, and if the Ontario Medical Council was abolished we would go back to the same position as we occupied prior to 1868. I cannot believe there is one who has the welfare of the medical profession at heart in this country who would wish to see us return to this condition, and for this reason I would ask those who are opposed to some clauses in our Act to pause and consider well before they do anything to embarrass the Council or vitiate the Act, and by so doing play into the hands of the charlatans both in and out of the profession. As it is we stand alone, looked upon by the general public as a close corporation and fitting prey for malpractice suits for large damages, who do nothing but increase the fees and legislate for our own pockets; and these views are encouraged by a certain class of men

who have not the ability to obtain our license, or having obtained it branch off in some disreputable way in order to make more money, and victimize the very public whom they profess to champion as against the regular practitioner. Fortunately for the profession and public, we have a clause in the Act to enable the Council to purge the profession of such unworthy members, and to punish others who trade on the incredulity of the public by fraudulent practices without being registered. Why it should be so I cannot tell, unless it is that people like to be humbugged. But it is a fact nevertheless that the sympathies of the majority of the laity are against the regular profession and in favour of quackery. Therefore I reiterate the statement that we must be careful how we interfere with the present law, by amending some minor clauses which may be objectionable, that we do not get the whole Act wiped out; and I would suggest here, as I have already done in another place, that the members of the profession in Ontario, who are aggrieved at some of the workings of the Act, meet the Medical Council, discuss the whole question, frame such amendments as may be in the interests of the profession and public, and then go to the Legislature as a united profession, asking for such alterations in the present Act as they have agreed upon, and I am sure the Legislature will grant them. I hope the Association will pardon me for this digression, but I speak feelingly, having the interests of the profession at heart and knowing something of the differences existing between some members of the profession and the Medical Council of Ontario.

Prior to 1867 the matriculation examinations in all our colleges was more a matter of form than anything else, and could be passed at any time before going up for the degree. At the present time it is quite different. Now it is equal to a second class teacher's certificate, with Latin, physics and chemistry compulsory, or junior matriculation in arts in any university, with the science course; and the day is not far distant when it will become still higher and eventually reach a degree in arts; and can anyone say that this should not be so? A physician, above all men, should be thoroughly educated, for education is a great refiner; and in what calling or profession is this quality more essential than in ours?