

cal interference. The matter, however, being one of great public importance, and the assistance of the Dominion Parliament being invoked, some provision would doubtless have to be made for the representation of that interest.

Let me suggest, then, that a Provisional Council consist of three classes of members, all of whom would be registered medical practitioners:

(a). One from each Province, including the Northwest Territories, to be appointed by the Governor-General in Council.

(b). One from each Province, including the Northwest Territories to be appointed by the Medical Council of the Province.

(c). The President of each Provincial Medical Council to be an *ex officio* member.

This would give a council of 24 members.

It is a question whether all the Provinces should have an equal number of members, in the council as permanently constituted, or whether the representation should be in some measure graded according to the relative number of practitioners in each province. In any case it would be desirable to keep the council of moderate number, for ease and efficiency of working, and to secure a representative majority at all times.

Now, so far, the outline of the proposed scheme deals only with students of medicine wishing to qualify themselves for practice in all or any of the provinces which accept Dominion registration as sufficient evidence of professional capacity.

With regard, however, to medical practitioners actually practising at the time of the passing of such an act, should the right be given them to avail themselves of the privileges under the act admitting them to practise in other provinces than that in which they had originally qualified? Should it be retroactive?

Many objections would doubtless be raised to such a clause, especially by the profession in the younger provinces who might dread a stampede in their direction. This could readily be overcome, however, by making some time limit, say five or seven years of actual practice, coupled with evidence of good professional standing. Medical men in practice for that length of time would not be so likely to migrate as the more recent graduates.

There are many matters of detail that might be introduced, but my chief purpose to-night is to excite a discussion on the general practicability of such a scheme as that which I have endeavored to outline.

The present state of affairs in connection with the practice of our profession in this country is anomalous, and exists perhaps, nowhere else. Where we have, simply imaginary lines or narrow rivers separating our provinces the present arrangements must continue to lead to hardships, both to the public and to medical men themselves, and sometimes to