

In reading over the minutes of the Vancouver meeting, I came across two resolutions of interest to us. One concerned the question of a Public Health Department for the whole country, the other that of Dominion Registration.

At the Vancouver meeting in 1904, a strong resolution was passed, urging the Dominion Government to establish a department of public health under a minister of the crown; a matter which the association had been urging for three years. Unfortunately, this resolution, as well as others of a like purport, remained without effect. But I am happy to be able to say that matters in this direction now look more favorable. At the first meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association, held last December in Montreal, under the presidency of Professor Starkey, Premier Borden promised that his government would institute a general reform in public health matters, and put that department on a sound and modern footing. In this he was supported by the Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture. We can thus hope that, before long, this very important question will be settled in the manner that this association has been urging for so long.

At the same meeting there was passed a resolution concerning Dominion Registration, to which Dr. Roddick, of Montreal, had given so much of his time. This, too, has now come to pass, but only this year. During the present spring the so-called "Enabling Clause" was finally passed by Ontario, the last of the provinces which had previously been afraid that their provincial autonomy would be endangered; and I am glad to be able to say that we are finally in a position to begin the detail work of arranging for a Dominion Council.

The Roddick Bill aims at the establishing of one set of examinations and one standard of qualifications for the practice of medicine in Canada, in place of the different examinations and varying standards of the individual provinces. It was introduced in the House of Commons in 1902 by Dr. Roddick, then representing St. Antoine Division, Montreal. The bill was passed, but owing to objections raised to certain features by provinces jealous as to their existing rights, it was found impossible to give effect to the act.

About two years ago a meeting of the representatives of the provincial medical councils was held in Montreal, when Dr. Roddick succeeded in securing the consent of all to certain amendments which he proposed to the original Act. These amendments, removing earlier objections, were embodied in a bill which was passed at the 1911 session of the Parliament in Ottawa. It is part of the Act as