

upon to cross the borders into one of the States where exists unrestricted liberty or free trade, in all matters medical. I am convinced the worst of such croakers would be cured of his malady by a tour into Michigan, for example, extending over so short a time as four weeks. Should any of these sore-heads see fit to act upon my suggestion, I would recommend him to invite Mr. Gordon Brown of the *Globe* to join him on his tour of observation.

Business, of a non-professional character, demanded my attention recently in Michigan, where I remained for a few months. I improved the time as much as possible by inquiring into the state of society, more especially as regards education and the professions. The common school system is not as good as ours was twenty years ago. There is no regular standard of qualification for teachers. Any one may be a superintendent, and is elected on town meeting day as are our Councilors. Such superintendents, often illiterate men, are the examiners of candidates for school certificates. The schools are not open more than two-thirds of the year. Male teachers are employed in winter and a female in summer. A poor high-school they call a college, and from such places issue forth yearly a host of "graduates."

As a class, the lawyers are ignorant and unrefined, although the law requires an examination on entering the profession—such examination being limited to a knowledge of law, time and education being counted only—and is conducted in open court by a circuit judge. It is strange that this should be the case when no such test is applied in medicine. But if we look at home, we shall find, that amongst those who advocate free trade in medicine, not one has demanded free trade in law. Which is the most valuable, a man's property, or his life?

As might be expected in a country enjoying free trade in medical practice, the State is over-run by quacks, both regular and irregular. To one educated practitioner there are at least six or seven who can lay no claim to being educated. I know of one beautiful town of two thousand inhabitants situated in the midst of a rich agricultural country, and far from competition, which has six quacks and only one educated doctor. This ratio will stand good all over the State. Many of these quacks have some kind of diploma obtained in Indiana or elsewhere, and claim to be regulars,

and are loud in the denunciation of quackery. But after all they are very little above the ordinary quack in their education, their manners and their practice. The larger number, however, have no qualifications for the profession further than that brazen-facedness so essential to the successful charlatan. Nothing strikes the Canadian more forcibly than the uncouthness, general shabbiness and the transparent lack of dignity and all refinement in the class of men, taken as a whole, addressed as "doctor." In Canada, a hod-carrier would be ashamed to go "down town" in the garb in which I have often seen these "professional" gentlemen go about on the streets.

The majority of these men are of low taste and habits, and would disgrace any calling. Greed being their only motive power, they do not scruple to resort to any trick, or crime I may add, that will promote their ends. Just fancy the annoyances the six quacks above mentioned can daily bring to bear on the life of the one educated and refined practitioner with whom they are in competition. This gentleman would give half a year's income, besides a liberal annual tax to get rid of his tormentors. Think of that, ye croakers of Ontario. All the educated practitioners with whom I came in contact would joyfully make any reasonable material sacrifice to have the Ontario Medical Act transcribed on the Michigan statute book.

However desirous the medical schools may be of elevating the standard of professional education they are unable to do so. Our own past experience teaches us that most young men will take the nearest cut. If the schools were to require a long course they might as well close their doors. The result is that the vast majority of regular graduates are far below the average standard of Ontario. Nor can there be a change before the laws set a premium on education and practical training, as is the case in our own country. There is a re-action going on all over the Union in reference to this matter. A few of the States have enacted laws restricting medical practice, but the process will be a slow one at best, and the benefits will come tardily even where such laws exist. It will take a long time to educate the people to the necessity of enforcing such laws, however much they may approve of them in theory. While the bars are down it is hard to put them up again. We Canadians should draw from this a useful