

the House, been amended in the Senate, and received Vice-regal sanction. Members of this association will recall the fact that Dr. Roddick strongly advocated his bill from this platform two years ago. They may not as easily recall the fact that I objected to the measure as being manifestly and disastrously unfair to Ontario. As then put forward, the bill gave as large a representation to Prince Edward Island, to Alberta, and to other provinces with a few score of practitioners as to this Province with over 3,000 registered practitioners.

I am glad to say that the protest we raised was effectual, and that the bill was re-drawn with the representation arranged upon a more equitable basis.

An examination of the bill as it finally passed the Senate leads me to fear that it has been emasculated, and is now potent neither for good nor harm. I may be wrong in this estimate, and since the main object of the bill is a desirable one, I should be glad to find myself mistaken. What we in Ontario must guard with jealous care is the standard which we now have. There must be no leveling down to meet the needs of schools in any part of the Dominion. Pledges will not suffice; we must have power to prevent it being done; and if we have such power and use it, I am exceedingly doubtful if we shall ever see the Act in operation.

During the session of the House of Commons just closed the Canada Evidence Act of 1893 was amended so as to limit to five the number of expert witnesses who may be called on either side, in civil or in criminal cases when the consent of the judge for the calling of a larger number has not been asked for and obtained, before beginning the examination of the first witness to give opinion evidence. This, in my judgment, is a sensible enactment, tending to lessen, but not competent to remove certain abuses which His Honor Judge McDougall may touch upon in his address before you to-night. It will have some tendency to lessen the advantage which always goes with a long purse in litigation, but it appears to run counter to the statement, which we have from the very highest of authorities, that "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

The development and extension of cottage hospitals in very many of the cities and larger towns of Ontario, is a movement in the right direction, and a natural outcome of the more complete and practical training which our students are now receiving. It has greatly increased the number of positions as house surgeons, now available, and these positions become year by year a more important factor in medical education. The status of