

Presidential Address.

HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION.*

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Gentlemen :

When, one year ago, in the historic city of Halifax, you placed me in the honourable position of President, I felt that after the eminent addresses which my predecessors in this chair have delivered there was nothing left for me to say. The choice of a subject is a matter of no little difficulty. Medical education, however, is one in which the profession of Canada is greatly interested, and this Association representing the Maritime Provinces of Canada, may consider the time opportune to review it, not only as it may interest the profession but the people in general. The profession for a long time felt our anomalous position in being hemmed in by provincial boundaries so that a doctor who was legalized in one province could not follow his profession in another without passing a rigid examination. To-day we witness the realization of reciprocity in the practice of medicine in these provinces and what has been accomplished here can be accomplished in all Canada. I need not refer to the oft repeated expression, "The British North American Act" by which Canada was federated, leaving the question of education with each province. That matter is generally well understood. Medical education since the early days of the fathers of our profession has undergone many changes and no one will dispute the fact that the science of medicine has advanced notwithstanding the mighty opposition it has met with in its various epochs. It is somewhat unfortunate that when our profession will take a step in advance, many of the people view our actions with suspicion and particularly when we apply for legislative enactments. No other profession is looked upon by the people in the same way. Account for it as you will, the public look upon us when trying to raise the standard of education with suspicion and distrust that it is a scheme to raise our fees. A little reflection would convince them that it is truly in their own interests and to protect their lives, and that mercenary motives are secondary with us while primary with the people themselves. Is it unreasonable that we should insist on a high

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