

papers on special subjects will be read and discussed at the afternoon sessions of the sections to which they may be referred.

As the work of the Association will be divided into sections, I am precluded the opportunity of dealing with what will be brought forward by the chairmen of sections at the proper time. I shall therefore touch upon questions of general interest, which cannot come under the prescribed heads; yet which concern the well-being of this Association; of the learned profession which it represents; and, more than all, of the community in which it is fostered.

MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

The acts relating to the profession of medicine and surgery, in existence for many years past, in this Province, have been changed. If amendment means improvement, correction, change for the better, then have I difficulty in unreservedly qualifying the hasty legislation in the ancient capital, last session, where three bills went in, to satisfy the fancies of three orders of mind, and one came out, satisfying fully, I believe, no order of mind.

The Province of Ontario has a central examining board, and the medical press and profession of that Province have pronounced in its favour. The Province of Quebec has, as yet, no central board, yet nothing short of it will satisfy the wishes of those who look only to the well-being of the profession, and of the community.

Medical education, as well as the preparation for it, belongs to each Province. It is useless, therefore, to speak of medical legislation for the whole Dominion; or of having a medical act to apply to, and to govern, the whole Dominion. But it should be an easy matter to introduce measures simultaneously, in the several Local Legislatures, each for its own Province, yet all alike, so that the practitioner in one part of the Dominion could be a practitioner in all; but central examining boards, one for each Province, and an uniform standard for the whole, must be elements in that system.

To compel persons, having a license to practise in one part of the Dominion, to obtain another to practise in another part of the same Dominion, seems to be an anomaly, but an anomaly which can be remedied only by a parity of medical legislation in the several Provinces.

How much more liberal is the present action in Great Britain, where the English College of Physicians has passed a by-law, by which even foreign practitioners may be legalized in England.