

work such as that contemplated by the Act requires, for anything like complete success, at least one medical officer who would be prepared to devote all his time to the duties of his office. I venture the assertion that all the provisions of the Bill, even in its present shape, cannot be adequately met unless a secretary can be sufficiently remunerated to be satisfied to relinquish all other professional work. If this Board of Health is to accomplish a work whose beneficial effects will be as wide-spread as the limits of this Province itself, it will not do for the active officer of the Board to confine himself to the working out of only such details as he can manage without leaving the City of Toronto. He should be a man possessed of the ability to acquire a thorough acquaintance with all the various expedients that will tend to give effectiveness to the measure. Then he should have the authority to spend a large share of his time each year in visiting the various parts of the country, and presenting such information as will enlighten the general public upon all the important points that will naturally engage the attention of the Board.

With the present composition of the Board I am not inclined to find fault. It will be readily seen that, with the diverse and somewhat antagonistic elements that have been permitted to obtain in this Province, through previous medical legislation, a work of making a judicious, and at the same time a satisfactory selection has been no easy task. To my own mind, then, a difficult work has been accomplished with a fair regard to the qualifications necessary for such a position, and the various interests involved.

But your big brother of the *Lancet* could not wind up his otherwise fairly good article without his customary ill-natured allusion to the Chairman of the Board and his want of qualification for that position. I know of no more contemptibly mean man than he who, having the almost unlimited power which he wields through his own Journal, utilizes it by making a nasty personal attack upon his professional brother who happens, for the time being, to have been only a rival. Now, this is precisely the position of matters as between the Editor of the *Lancet* and Dr. Oldright. They both

happened to be applicants for this position. Judicious counsels prevailed in the present instance, the almost infinitely superior man of the two received the appointment; and the sorehead, with a degree of presumption which, I venture to say, could only find expression in the Editor of the *Lancet*, vents his malicious spleen upon his competitor in the contest by an unfounded reference to his incompetence which will not find an endorsement from a solitary individual acquainted with the character and attainments of both men. Will the Editor of the *Lancet* kindly inform your correspondent as to the grounds upon which he has been pleased to characterize the recently-appointed Chairman of the Board of Health as a "mere theorist," and so incompetent for the position as to materially jeopardize the chances of its usefulness? I have no doubt he is expressing his true inwardness when he volunteers the able suggestion, "*the selection of the Chairman does not meet with our approval.*" No one ever supposed for a moment that any other appointment than that of Dr. Fulton, would meet the approval of the distinguished, eminently practical Editor of the *Lancet*. Dr. Oldright needs no defence among his professional brethren in Toronto; and I should not have felt it necessary to utter a sentence in his behalf, but for the possible effect of this scurrilous article where he is not so well known to the profession, and the feeling of distrust it may arouse in the minds of some as to the ultimate success of the measure. He has now been pursuing his profession for some sixteen years and with a degree of success in all directions that will not only bear favourable comparison with that of the Editor of the *Lancet*, but can be demonstrated to be far superior. In addition to this, it is only just to him to say that the special direction which his labours have taken for the last nine years has been such as to eminently qualify him for a career of great usefulness in the sphere to which he has been recently appointed. If the Government could have seen their way clearly to offering sufficient inducements to one professional officer to encourage him to abandon regular professional work, Dr. Oldright is, in my humble judgement, one of the best men eligible to-day for the appoint-