

THE MEDICAL ACT.

The proposed Medical Act for the Province of Quebec was introduced into the Legislature on the 21st May last. After its second reading it was referred to a special committee of the House. The supporters and the opponents of the Bill were then given an opportunity of being heard. It was well known that there was widespread and formidable opposition to it, although a considerable number of the profession in the Province were in its favor. In committee, Dr. E. P. Lachapelle spoke strongly of the desirability of the Bill becoming law, urging that it would unify examinations, raise the standard of medical education, and put us in a position to secure reciprocity with Ontario and with other countries. Dr. R. P. Howard, Dean of the Medical Faculty of McGill University, opposed the Bill upon the grounds set forth in the Faculty's petition to the Legislature. As this document is an important one as conveying concisely the reasons for the position taken, we reproduce it in full.

To the Honourable the House of Assembly of the Province of Quebec :

The petition of the undersigned members of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University, respectfully represents :—

That for fifty-five years the Medical Faculty of McGill University has maintained a thorough and efficient course of Medicine, with Hospital and practical work and searching examinations, and has been the means of greatly elevating the standard of medical attainment in this Province and in Canada generally, and that in recent years its course of study has been extended, its lectures increased in number and its laboratories and other means of practical instruction greatly enlarged.

That it has always possessed and has had guaranteed to it at Confederation, as one of the Schools of the Protestant minority, the privilege of sending up its graduates for license to practice, and that this privilege has never in any way been abused by it. Farther, that the course of medical study requisite to entitle to practice has been duly fixed by law, and has always been adhered to by your petitioners.

That the proposed Medical Act, as prepared by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of this Province, contains several important enactments against which the University of McGill College earnestly protests :

I. One of the most important is the creating of a Central