

an intelligent choice on the part of the electors, and it shows that numbers of those who signed are disgusted and are withdrawing, and yet he says he has seventy-two names on his nomination! I have said I had the majority in the Division, and let me tell you my reasons for saying so. I have received letters from twenty-seven members who had signed Dr. Cranston's nomination, and of these nineteen declare they will vote for me, giving various reasons for so doing, but generally stating they do not believe the Doctor should receive the honour for five years more, and the remaining eight state it is their intention not to vote at all. If I add these nineteen to the number who will support me in the city, being forty or forty-one, and those in Perth and Lanark, I find I have sixty-seven votes, or a safe majority out of one hundred and sixteen. Remember these have pledged themselves intelligently, with the facts and candidates before them, but before the members in the Division were made aware of my opponent's statements made ten years ago, which necessarily will entirely alter the whole aspect of the vote. I will quote from the letter of a member, and it is a fair sample of the others received: "It is my intention to vote for you, and although I signed Dr. Cranston's nomination I did so believing there would be no other candidate, and I do not think we should allow him, or any one else, to hold the office longer than two terms. It also seems to me nothing but right for the city to have the representation this time, etc." This, then, is the opinion of a well known and highly respected physician residing in the rural portion of this Division.

(6.) Lastly, we will briefly discuss the subject of the standard of pre-medical education in Ontario. The Medical Council, or Medical Parliament, of Ontario is made up of twelve members *elected* by the profession in the Territorial Divisions, nine *appointed* by the medical schools, and five homœpaths. Every move tending to make the profession better, to make the standard of pre-medical and medical education higher, to stop the overcrowding of the profession, naturally should receive the approval of the members elected directly by the practitioners throughout the Province. Again the aim of the medical schools is to keep the standard as low as possible, because a meagre requirement of general and medical education is the surest means of drawing grist to their mills. I have here sketched in a few words both the cause and the seat of the medical conflict in Ontario, and we find in every civilized country the same condition of things, the opposing forces being the medical practitioners on the one hand and the medical schools on the other. So long as we in this province *elect* members to the Council with the ideas and aims Dr. Cranston has shown himself to have, then so long will the profession remain overcrowded and stationary, without any possibility of advancement. Were he a school representative or a paid emissary to scatter abroad their chestnuts, he could not have written more strongly in their interests than he has in his last circular. He seems to be literally stuffed with the stock arguments of the schools, and rattles them off with a glibness worthy of a better cause. Evidently the school men have found in him pliant material, and they have moulded him to their liking. Why, gentlemen, the same arguments were made twenty-five years ago by the school men, when it was proposed to form in Ontario the present Council, and inaugurate thereby a one-portal system of medical registration. They then talked of a "Chinese wall," "our preserve," and "excluding" our young men, when the proposal was made to have a uniform and higher grade of medical education. It surely is no kindness to "the young men of this country" to lure them, by a low standard of pre-medical education, into a profession so far overcrowded that they find for years ~~but~~ they can barely make a living, barely secure a better income than a first-class mechanic! The public *do* suffer by an overcrowded medical profession, because this condition is an incentive to quackery, pseudo-quackery, dishonest dealing and criminal practice! We find there is now one physician in Ontario to 800 of the population, and less than twenty years ago it was one to over 1,200, and I have shown there are at least 900 medical students who are at present preparing to enter the practise of medicine in this Province, indicating the law of supply and demand will never rectify this condition until the profession has become so far degraded that it will be abhorrent to the minds of the honourable and intelligent. The requirement of a B.A., and four full years medical study subsequent thereto, will lower down the number of medical students to one-half, but the "law of supply and demand" will always, no matter how hard the course is, produce quite sufficient physicians to meet the needs of the population. If I cannot secure this standard from the Council at first, by advocating it I am likely to secure a material increase over what it is now. I have been informed by Dr. Bergin that he has constantly upheld in the Council this very arrangement, so the seconder of the motion is at hand. In regard to the profession in England, fully seventy-five per cent of the physicians practising on their own account have the M. D. degree, and those not having it dare not style themselves "Dr.," and generally they act as assistants to those of a higher grade. The lowest degree in England, the L.S.A., or Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, has a standard as high as that of our Medical Council, showing how ambitious our medical legislators have been. The dentists in Ontario, practising an infinitesimal branch of surgery, require, before registration, a third class professional certificate as a test of preliminary education, and three full years study of dentistry, making a "Chinese wall around their preserve," and "boycotting our young men," and yet the public seem to like it, and they have not thought of hauling down the barrier. If that is the standard in order to practise dentistry, at the same ratio the medical profession should require five times the length of study. In conclusion, gentlemen, I have tried to honestly place the whole matter before you, and I must leave myself in your hands. If elected, I shall work conscientiously in the interests of the profession and in the interests of my *confreres* in this Division.

I am yours, faithfully,

A. F. ROGERS, M.D.

OTTAWA, February 17th, 1890.

Dr. A. F. Rogers
Circulars
1890