

THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR OSTEOPATHS.

The osteopaths have for some time sought to secure a legal status. There was a battle royal this time when they appeared before the Bills Committee of the Legislature. They sought some most sweeping privileges. It was amusing in the extreme to hear some of them defining osteopathy as a system of medicine that adjusted the spine, and put displaced nerves once more in their proper position.

The original bill sought to give legal standing to the American Osteopathic Association. This was taken out and osteopathic colleges are placed under the approval of the Ontario Medical Council. This is proper. Then an attempt was made to allow all the osteopaths now in practice to register. But it was shown that the training in most cases had been either very poor or almost nil, and that some safeguard should be thrown around the practice. All the sections dealing with Osteopathy were finally struck out of the bill. Osteopaths are still where they were.

Osteopathy is only a treatment by rubbing and manipulation. In some form it has existed for long enough. There is no doubt but that the Greek wrestlers had their bodies rubbed. All down the ages we have had those that tried to cure disease by the laying on of hands. It has always been a question of trying to treat people without going through a proper course of study. That massage and manipulations are good is granted; but they must be applied by skilled people or under the guidance of skilled persons.

AN ACT RESPECTING PUBLIC HEALTH.

Hon. Mr. W. J. Hanna introduced a very important measure into the Local Legislature during the session just closed. This Act is now the law of the Province of Ontario. It consolidated the various Health Acts and adds many new sections.

The Provincial Board of Health for Ontario shall consist of six persons, in addition to the Chief Officer of Health. Of these, at least four must be duly qualified medical practitioners. The Chief Medical Officer shall be a medical practitioner of at least five years' standing. The Board shall hold at least four meetings each year.

The duties of the Board are varied and important; and shall include investigations as to disease and mortality, advising as to sanitary matters, having charge over vaccine and serum, preventing nuisances, the sanitary conditions in gaols, etc., the distribution of sanitary literature, and the power to order necessary changes in premises.