

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

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(Read at Fifty-Seventh Annual Meeting Medical Society of Nova Scotia, held at Yarmouth, N. S., July 7, 1910).

MR. PRESIDENT

AND GENTLEMEN:—

WITH your permission I now desire to call your very special attention to a matter of vital bearing on medical education in Nova Scotia, a matter which deeply concerns the Provincial Medical Board, as the legally constituted guardian of such education, and one, therefore, which calls for the earnest consideration of this Society as the body which appoints six members of that Board, and which, moreover has the whole care of the medical profession of this Province in its keeping.

Some of you may be already aware that "The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching"—a body richly endowed by Mr. Carnegie and having its headquarters in New York—has recently compiled and published a bulletin of some 350 pages, devoted to the subject of "Medical Education in the United States and Canada," in which is discussed first its history, its present condition, and its proper condition, while the latter half of the book is devoted to a more or less detailed account of the equipment, facilities, and status of each of the 155 Medical Schools in the Republic, and of the eight Medical Schools in the Dominion.

The aim of this work, as I understand it after a pretty careful reading, is to sweep or drive out of existence about four-fifths of the Medical Schools of the United States, and

about half of the Medical Schools of Canada; and how aptly and ingeniously the various essays and reports are fashioned to support and further that destructive aim, is evident from almost every page of the bulletin.

Thirty-one of the Medical Schools of the Republic, and four, or at the most five, of the Medical Schools of the Dominion, are marked for preservation, or amplification, while one hundred and twenty-four schools in the United States, and three, or perhaps four, in Canada, are plainly marked for slaughter, and to use the language of the Report: among those whose "speedy demise" is aimed at is the Halifax Medical College.

The main or most serious charge against the college is that it is mercenary or "commercial" in its spirit and ideals, a charge which its whole history, and the character of the men connected with it, since its inauguration as a Department of Dalhousie University forty-three years ago, most emphatically disproves.

But I had better give you the exact words of the report or criticism from the Carnegie Foundation's bulletin.

I shall now read to you from page 320, giving part of the report of the Halifax Medical College, as follows: "Three fourths of the fees are distributed among the professors, and this disposition of funds is reflected in the condition of the medical college; it possesses an ordinary, ill-smelling dissecting-room and a single utterly wretched laboratory for pa-