

examiners. There can certainly be no doubt that that or any other Departmental standard of requirements that is adopted by this Council will have plenty of persons who undertake to try it. Then, in regard to the charge made that we are attempting to raise a Chinese wall of exclusion around the profession, I beg to observe that those using that objection apparently fail to recognize the fact that regulation is not exclusive; and if their contention be sustained its only logical sequence must be that the fences that at present environ the profession shall be lowered completely and free trade in medicine introduced. Once it is admitted that educational requirements of a kind shall be in the interests of the community, demanded on the part of those who would enter upon the study of medicine—and it is admitted that such shall be the case in all civilized countries in the world—it merely becomes a matter of expediency how high that standard shall be placed. It is true that there must be a full sufficiency of well-educated, self-respecting, thoroughly accomplished medical men in the community to meet every possible demand that may be made upon their services; and in countries where there is not a supply of medical men proportionate to the population it is necessary, or may be necessary, to increase educational facilities, to lower the standard of preliminary requirements, and even to invite and encourage young men and women to enter upon the study of medicine. No one, I think, will maintain that such is the condition of things in this country at the present day; in countries like Ontario, where the medical profession has become so overcrowded that it is no longer a remunerative calling to the great bulk of practitioners, and where, unless some drastic measures of relief are adopted, and adopted soon, it threatens ere long to become a scarcely reputable mode of occupation. In countries like this it becomes necessary to apply a check, and if necessary a severe check, to the influx of medical men into the profession. We have been told, of course, a great deal about the law of demand and supply, and about the iniquity of trying to keep out the farmer's son from the profession. A mere reference to the condition of this profession in this province, not only at the present time, but for some years past, is sufficient to explode all the fine-spun theories about the demand being sufficient to regulate the supply; and we know, and the Legislature fortunately now knows, that there is a poor profession, and a poor public, and a poor farmer to be considered as well as a poor farmer's son. Our profession is hugely overcrowded, and it becomes our duty to take measures to afford it some relief; and when I hear my excellent friend, the representative of Toronto University, get up, as he did a few years ago, and state that if the adoption of a certain standard of requirements had the effect of admitting ten thousand more men into the profession, it should not be opposed, I am afraid he is not displaying his usual good judgment and discretion, and that he is allowing his official connection to warp his views; and when my very excellent, forgiving and affectionate friend, the representative from No. 1, gets up in this room and goes him one more, and says if it has the effect of bringing fifteen thousand more men into the profession, I can hardly refrain from inspecting him, and walking around him, and asking, respectfully, permission to lift the lapel of his coat-tail

to see if he is not already togated with a professorial gown. It may be necessary in some other connection to urge much more forcibly and much more fully than I can venture to do here with your fifteen-minute time limit, which will close my mouth—it may be necessary in some other capacity, through the public press or before a committee of the House, to urge the elevation of this matriculation standard from a public standpoint; I am urging it now from the standpoint of the profession, and only incidentally from that of the public. That it is desirous in the interests of the profession, I think nobody will deny. Our population is not growing, and the number of students or medical men thrown into the country is being multiplied hand over hand. This Council is sending out now medical students at the rate of something like one hundred and twenty-five or one hundred and thirty a year—I believe some ninety odd graduated a week or two ago; and in the fall examination (if you have a fall examination), if it is measured by last year's examination, you may expect to have twenty-five or thirty more; and, of course, with seven or eight new men crowding into each of our seventeen constituencies every year, it requires no very extensive knowledge of arithmetic to know that in a very few years the number of medical men in the country will be doubled, unless some check is applied. If that be the result, God help the profession, God help the public, and God help the finances of this Council. You will find your public prosecutor, if multiplied by fifty, would find room for the execution of all the rogues of the entire Court in watch-dogs, and your Discipline Committee multiplied and enhanced tenfold, would be a sufficient current of professional degradation to impose one of \$5, or \$10, or \$20, as a vain attempt to prevent the influx of a dozen of McCullys or Washings into the profession, and the more your profession becomes overcrowded, the more you will find the necessity of professional conduct. You may talk about means of restricting lodge practice and of Dominion registration; but everybody knows that if the profession were not crowded as it is there would be no lodge practice; nobody would stoop to it. If there were only two men in a town where there are now four, no one would have any connection with a lodge. Now, I am thoroughly convinced that the only way of placing any restriction upon the influx to our profession is to place a stiff and advanced matriculation examination at the commencement. (Hear, hear.) When a man has got into the educational lane that leads to medical registration, and has spent some time and money in it, he is going to persevere and going to get over the final test, I do not care how highly it may be elevated. If they are to be restrained at all, I say they are to be restrained at the commencement by your matriculation examination—(hear, hear)—and the time has come, in my opinion, when no less than a degree in Arts should be accepted. I know, from much observation, that the public is ripe for a measure in that direction. The public is already beginning to suffer in its pockets, from the plethora of an overcrowded and congested profession; and I have no doubt, and I speak with some authority, that the