

By the recent amendment to the Medical Act* four points have been gained, as follows:

(1) The Council has now the power to raise the standard of preliminary education to an Arts degree.

(2) Under the former Act any one whose name had been erased from the register by the Council for unprofessional conduct had the right to appeal to "any judge of the High Court of Justice," but now he must appeal to the "Divisional Court" of three judges, and there is much more safety for the Council in having a case tried by a High Court of three judges than by one judge alone, for it is a well-known fact that one or two of the judges in Ontario would decide against the Council in almost every instance.

(3) The third point in the amendment to the Act relates to the members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons paying their annual dues. The College has no power to increase the dues to more than \$2, but the members must now pay them annually or have their names erased from the register until payment is made. The dues are payable on the 31st of December of each year, and on payment the member receives an annual certificate, which is the only proof of registration; likewise, if he omits to pay his dues for twelve months, then his name has to be erased, but at any time that payment is made thereafter his name shall be immediately restored. Before erasure, also, can be executed, the registrar must give the member two months' notice by registered letter addressed to his register address. The reasons advanced for this method of collecting the dues are: First: The expenses of the College heretofore have been almost entirely met by students' fees; and if by raising the standard of pre-medical and medical education the number of students is reduced, then we shall be compelled to have power to secure support from the members of the profession, or the College must succumb for want of funds. Secondly: The College is in debt, and is carrying a heavy load in the shape of a \$60,000 mortgage on the building, which means \$3,000 annually in interest, besides a floating debt of several thousand dollars on which interest has

to be paid. The necessary expenses also to carry on the affairs of the College are naturally heavy, and include the salaries of the registrar, treasurer, detective, solicitors' fees, payments to examiners, expenses connected with the meetings of the Council, etc., etc.

(4) The fourth point in the amendment to the Medical Act has reference to keeping the Ontario Medical Register correct, and gives the registrar power to write a letter to a member asking him if the address given is correct, and if no answer is received in six months the name shall be erased, but shall be restored immediately on compliance with the Act.

The next subject to be referred to is

THE MEETING OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL, 1891, AND THE CHANGES IN THE CURRICULUM OF STUDIES.

At the meeting of the Council in 1890, Dr. Bergin moved for a committee to secure the curricula of all the colleges and universities obtainable, both British, Canadian, and foreign, and to report thereon at the meeting of the Council in 1891. This committee went to a great deal of trouble in obtaining the information necessary and preparing a report, which, with slight changes, was adopted by the Council.

(a) *Matriculation*.—In order to be registered as a medical student, the candidate must present a certificate of having passed "the University Departmental and Matriculation Examination, with prescribed Science course added, and compulsory," or he must have taken the degree of B.A. Only two ways, then, are open to the student to become matriculated, either to take the degree of Bachelor of Arts, or pass the Departmental University Examination, with Science.

(b) *Medical Course*.—If the student has passed the Departmental Arts Examination he has then to study medicine *five full years*, consisting of four winter sessions of six months each, and one summer session, with hospital attendance, and then one full year devoted to practical and clinical work in hospitals and dispensaries, either foreign, British, or Canadian. If the student, on the other hand, has taken the degree of B.A., he has then to study medicine *four full years*, including the last year of practical and clinical work, but he has only to at-

*This amendment to the Medical Act will be published in the Ontario Medical Register this year.