

Campbell and Mr. Gordon Brown have been worsted, but not vanquished. They will renew the fight, and it behoves the friends of ONE EXAMINING BOARD to be on the alert. If we would only act in concert no Parliament could afford to disregard our remonstrances. I consider this question of ONE EXAMINING BOARD, of far greater importance both to the profession and the public than any at the present moment affecting provincial politics. We have no assurance, except in the vigilance of the profession, that the question will not be re-opened. It was only through the apathy of the medical gentlemen in their respective constituencies that the following gentlemen voted in committee for the Homœopathic Bill, which contemplated the dis-memberment of the Council, and the re-establishment of the old system of examinations. The gentlemen alluded to are—CROOKS, ARDAGH, DEACON, MEREDITH, SEXTON, SNETSINGER, and STRIKER. There are others in the House who would have done the same thing under like circumstances. However, but few of the above named gentlemen would have voted as they did had they been told that such a course would most certainly receive the reprobation of the profession at the ensuing election. I am a Reformer in politics, but a thousand times would I prefer Mr. Crook's defeat in West Toronto, than that he should be again permitted to introduce another such bill. These gentlemen should be looked after during the recess, be they Whig or Tory. We have now got our rights, and let us fight for them by every legitimate means within our reach; and not the least important is, the use of the franchise. The medical men of Ontario, if united, can effectually resist all legislation of the nature of Dr. Campbell's bill.

But that our efforts may be well and wisely directed, we should "organize," as the politicians say. I see you have a Medical Society in Toronto—Toronto is the Capital, and is also central. I hope the society there will see the propriety, nay, the immediate necessity, of taking steps for the formation of a Provincial Association for Ontario. A move of that kind, I am convinced, would meet with a hearty response at the present moment. The dissemination of information in reference to all matters affecting the profession would form an important part of the work devolving upon such organizations. Had we such a Society dur-

ing the past few years, we would have found it of immense value in our efforts to obtain fresh and needed legislation.

Another important matter which such a Society might inaugurate, is a Mutual Assurance Association. While I think such an Association should be under the Council and its officers, both for the sake of cheapness and safety, yet, I think the Ontario Medical Society should originate the matter and put it in proper shape to hand over to the Council at its next meeting. In conclusion, I would suggest to our friends in Toronto, that they call us together about the end of May, or shortly before the meeting of the Council.

Yours, etc.,

A. MACKINNON.

Stratford, March, 1874.

### A DEFENCE OF THE MEDICAL BILL.

To the Editor of the LANCET.

SIR,—It appears to be the misfortune of the medical profession, as of other bodies, to be more or less misrepresented, even when labouring to promote the best interests of the public, as well as their own.

The Bill just passed the Legislature has proved no exception to the rule. It has afforded an opportunity to those who like to assail the profession, and some, happily very few, have taken advantage of it. The Bill may be said to embody the wants and wishes of the vast majority of our medical men, including representatives of all sections of the profession who agree in the laudable desire of protecting the public and promoting the well being of their high calling.

The cardinal points of the Bill are as follows:—

That any man who adopts the healing art as a profession, no matter what he may style himself, shall have a fair share of preliminary education. Surely to this feature no objection can be raised, except by those who would think it an advantage, were the legal and the teaching professions thrown entirely open, and who consider Osgoode Hall, and our entire educational system as expensive, useless, and even oppressive encumbrances. The Bill will further protect the public by insisting that every one who intends to practise medicine shall spend a period of sufficient length at his studies to ensure