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EDITORIAL

THE MEDICAL COMMISSION.

Sir James Whitney has announced that the Government of Ontario will appoint a commission to study all the branches of the healing art, and all the various groups who, in some way or other, attempt to relieve man of his diseases and pains. The commission will consider the regular medical profession, and a subsection with a very strange and foolish view of things, known as homoeopathy. It will take into consideration dentistry. Christian science, osteopathy, chiropraxy, and all such ilks are to be made give some proof for the faith that is in them.

Now, commissions may do good or they may do a vast deal of harm according to the wisdom and experience of those who form them. In the reign of King James I., a commission was appointed to look into the subject of witches, and report thereon. The commission did study the subject with great diligence, and reported its belief in witches, and their power to do grievous harm to people. Severe laws followed.

If the commission is not a strong and competent one, the specious arguments of the Christian scientist, the chiropractor, and the osteopathist will appear as sound and worthy of consideration, as the deliberate evidence of the greatest master in medicine or surgery, or a pathologist who knows the ways of disease in all its phases and in all its stages.

Here we are on the very threshold of a real danger. These bodies may secure a recognition to which they are not in the least degree entitled, and one that would be disastrous to the people. The only rule of safety is that all who wish to treat the sick or injured must undergo a thorough course of study. After having done this, they may call themselves by any name they please. That is their own affair; but the affair of the province is to protect the people. It cannot afford to do less. It must be made a criminal offence to give silent and absent treatment to one who is seriously ill, and by one who knows nothing of the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the human body.