

would be simplified by accepting the members of these smaller societies, which would obviously be in a better position to determine their qualifications.

When the Ontario Medical Council was first established there were three Licensing Boards in Canada, in addition to the Medical Schools and Universities, namely, the Upper Canada, the Homœopathic and the Eclectic Medical Boards. The Universities, in addition to conferring degrees, really possessed licensing power, inasmuch as the holder of a University degree was entitled to practice medicine on proving his identity and paying a small fee. The Provincial License enabled the holder of it to practice in the Province conferring it, or in fact in any other Province, so that as a matter of fact there were in Upper and Lower Canada, exclusive of the other Provinces now constituting the Dominion, seven or eight Licensing Boards responsible to no central authority. On the establishment of the Ontario Medical Council it became the central authority and the only licensing body.

Before this time the schools and universities fixed their curricula, both for matriculation and professional examinations; some of the Licensing Board required no standard of matriculation at all, and the professional acquirements necessary to become a practitioner of medicine were of a very inferior character.

The first step taken to remedy this state of things was the "Parker Act," passed in 1865, providing for the formation of a Council with power to fix the standard of matriculation and that of the medical curriculum, but giving it no power to enforce that standard. The Homœopathic and Eclectic Boards were not interfered with, and the provisions of the Act were found to be very defective. An arrangement was then made with the homœopaths and eclectics and the various schools and universities, whereby the whole of the profession became subject to the Medical Council of Ontario, as a central authority. This Council was made up of representatives, elected from and appointed by the general profession, the medical schools and universities, and also from the homœopathic and eclectic bodies. This Act came into force in 1868, and conferred upon the Council power to fix the standard of all examinations and appoint examiners to conduct them.

Prior to 1867 the matriculation examination of our colleges was simply a matter of form, and could be passed at any time before going up for the degree. Now it is equivalent to a second class teacher's certificate, with compulsory Latin and physics and the science course. I believe that at the present time all the colleges and universities in the Dominion require four years of study before a student goes up for his degree, and in McGill University and the University of Toronto five years are required.