

out that the Act as it existed was scarcely workable; that we were not allowed to hold real estate or chattel property; that we could not therefore own a hall in which to make proper provision for examining students, nor own the requisite appliances to make the examinations practical; and they sought further legislation in this direction. At the same time, they asked for a money grant on the ground that the Medical Act was a public Act and for the public interest, and that therefore public money should be given them. In reply, the Government said: "What you say is largely true. The public are greatly benefited. We readily grant you the right to hold chattels and real estate, that you may perfect your examinations. This is in the public interest as well as the professional interest." But the members of the profession are themselves receiving the first benefit, and before we ask the public for a grant, they themselves should contribute something, as members of other professions do, to their professional funds. Upon that basis, a clause was introduced giving the Council power to impose a fee of not less than \$1, nor more than \$2 per year, upon each member of the profession, the \$1 being made compulsory the first year. A glance at the financial returns will be instructive at this point. Previous to the 1874 Act, and after the establishment and conduct of examinations, during the six years from 1868 to 1874, the receipts were not equal to the annual expenditure; the Treasurer was receiving no compensation for his services. The members of the Council complained that they were insufficiently paid, and as a matter of fact, the Council was not able to pay for what it honestly and legitimately should. After 1874 there was an influx of funds, partially owing to fees from members, and an increase from those passing the professional examinations. From that time forward, the Council had funds at its command, and were enabled to make provision for conducting more thorough and more complete examinations. These were more satisfactory to both Council and students, and more beneficial to the public and the profession, by bringing them in contact with a less number of poorly qualified medical men.

The general provisions of this Act, as to representation, registration, etc., were largely the same as with previous Acts with this material advance.

There were three branches of the profession having representation in the Council. There were no students presenting themselves who wished to follow the Eclectic system. It was therefore concluded, that after five years, there would be no further need of their having representation in the Council, nor a member on the Examining Board. With their consent provision was made for terminating these privileges.

Another striking feature in this Act is that the Council is given full power to fix and establish the medical curriculum, without its being submitted for, and obtaining the approval of the Governor-in-Council, as required in both the '65 and '68 Acts.

The next Act is that of 1887. It has just two or three prominent features. The first is, that there is a change made in the representation in the Council. This change was to allow a representative each from Regiopolis and Ottawa Colleges respectively. This was brought about, not at the instance of the Council, or of the colleges themselves, but rather in spite of the Council. The Council believed that the colleges already had all the representation they should have, but the Legislature thought otherwise, and introduced these names as colleges to have representatives. I mention this particularly to show that, when you go to the Legislature to secure any measure for the medical profession, you are not exactly certain what you will bring away. You may get what you want. You may come away with additions that you did not desire. You are not approaching a body of professional men, but in the main laymen, who look with suspicion on the professions. It is therefore important that, when you do approach the Legislature, you do so as a united profession, working in the most perfect harmony, otherwise the results may be disastrous.

Another amendment by this Act is, a limitation was put to the period in which a medical man might be prosecuted for malpractice. Previous to its enactment, I believe, the only limit was something like six years. In some cases, a medical man had been obliged to defend himself years after the witnesses were out of the way, and when the points were difficult to meet. This clause was obtained at the instance of the Council, and for the purpose of freeing the profession from an injustice of that kind.