

universities, who, having failed to pass their matriculation, could not obtain a license, and these gentlemen were hunted down without mercy.

In Ontario the Provincial Board has the welfare of the profession at heart, and, as a result, these quacks are quickly compelled to leave that province, its Board paying a detective and assuming all the expenses of protecting the regular profession from such unjust competition. I have waited patiently in the hope that our new board, in whom we all have great faith, would set about remedying this crying evil, but I presume that their attention will only have to be called to it in order to have them take the matter up at once.

The greatest grievance that I have is the company, a concern owned, as I am informed, by a layman in San Francisco, who, by his unscrupulous methods, has amassed a fortune within a few years. This company employs women to go around and find out every woman who is under medical treatment by a regular practitioner, and persuades her to leave him and put herself under their treatment. On several occasions my patients have informed me that these touts have forced their way into private houses even when told distinctly that they were not wanted. One patient with a large ovarian tumor, who had arranged to have it removed, was assured by one of these *Viavi* women that their medicine would cure her, and the unfortunate woman, hoping to avoid an operation, believed her, and is now a hopeless case. It was a strange retribution of fate that one of these agents, after causing the death of many women by preventing them from being treated, herself died recently from cancer of the womb due to a neglected lacerated cervix. In two other cases, one a lady with a large ovarian cyst and the other with a large fibroid who have been cured by operation and are now in excellent health, were besieged by as many as three agents in one day who hung on to them until they were leaving their houses to go to the doctor. How are we to hold our own against such enemies as these? Is it to the public interest that a foreigner who is not even a physician should practice here without a license? And he does not even practice himself, but he employs great numbers of unlicensed and unqualified assistants to practice for him.

There are two physicians here in good standing who were prosecuted by the late board for employing their brothers as assistants, although these assistants were McGill graduates, because they had no license. The other grievance will speak for itself; I take it verbatim from the *Montreal Star*, the 8th of January, 1899: