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AN ADDRESS DELIVERED IN THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF
THE MEDICAL ACT OF
ONTARIO.

BY A. M'KAY, M.D., M.P.P., INGERSOLL.

Mr. Speaker: Before this vote is taken I would like to make a few remarks on matters of great importance to the Medical Council, and not only to the Medical Council in this province, but to the public as well, because if you strike at the root of any large educational institution you at the same time strike at the public and create an injury in one way or another. I think it is a very important matter, and would like briefly to refer to some of the differences and difficulties amongst the profession in this province at the present time. We all know very well, Mr. Speaker, that in every responsible body, in every educational body, and in every incorporated body, there will be at one time or another some differences of opinion; and it is not unreasonable to suppose that even in the Medical Council and among the members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of this province you will occasionally find a difference of opinion. It was only a short time ago that the College of Pharmacy had its difficulties to contend with, and they came to this House for legislation, but they asked for it through their own representatives. We found two factions

there, one striving with the other, but that does not prove that the College of Pharmacy is not legislating in the interests of the public and in the interests of the members of that college. We also find that the Dental College have their difficulties to contend with, and even this very session we have a bill for the purpose of amending that Act. We know well when matters of importance in the Law Society come up you will find there strong differences of opinion, and when their elections are on they are very active in placing their views in reference to matters affecting the Law Society before the profession at large. Simply because there is some difference of opinion in the medical profession in reference to this College is no proof at all that the College is not doing good work and acting fairly in the interests of all concerned. What are the facts? In 1868, as properly said by the honorable member for Lennox, there was a movement made in this province for the purpose of organizing the Central Board of Examiners. Not only among the profession throughout the province, or throughout Upper Canada, at that time (it was before Confederation, or at least about the time of Confederation that the agitation sprung up), was there a strong feeling that the different licensing bodies in this province were turning out medical men who were not properly qualified, but the public were beginning to lose confidence in the graduates sent out from the different schools; and when the profession were agitating for a central board, they found that they had at their backs a strong