

*Canadian Medical Legislation.* I desire now to trace as briefly as possible the Medical Legislation in Canada during the past thirty-seven years. For a long time prior to the passing of the Ontario Medical Act as it now exists, the old Medical Board of Upper Canada (Ontario) was the general licensing body of the Province. As teaching Medical bodies gradually increased with the increase of population, the desire naturally became stronger and more general on the part of students to graduate in Medicine rather than to be as heretofore content with a Provincial license. A medical degree obtained from a British or Colonial University entitled its holder to a license, and at least one of the incorporated Medical Schools had obtained the legal right to examine and issue its certificate to successful candidates, and this carried a license with it. Two other licensing Medical Boards had sprung up, conducting their examinations under special Acts. One of these was the "Homœopathic" and the other the "Eclectic" Medical Board. The former came into existence in 1859, the latter in 1861.

With such an increase in the number of licensing bodies of one kind and another, it was self-evident that no little danger was likely to arise from a certain amount of competition, which would be inevitable whatever efforts might be made to guard against it, and would tend to make the obtaining of a license easier than had hitherto been the case. The members of the profession justly feared that the standard of Medical training was likely, if not certain, to be lowered rather than raised under such conditions. This had been wonderfully well maintained so far. But now, prominent Medical men, teachers for the most part, asked, whether it would not be very advantageous to have a central Medical Board established, before which, and wherever educated, all candidates for license should have to be examined? This question admitted of but one reply, and that was in the affirmative—provided that such a Board could be so constituted as to inspire perfect confidence in its absolute impartiality as between the various graduating and teaching medical bodies. It would undoubtedly be a great boon in such case. As might have been expected, however, the first suggestions made, and sought to be passed through the Legislature, were very crude, and were on this account strongly opposed by many who entirely believed in the Central Board principle.

In 1866, "Dr. Parker's Bill," as it is called, was passed. This was the first Act passed since that which had been many years before disallowed, viz., that for the incorporation of the Medical Profession as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Upper Canada. Dr. Parker's Bill established a Council of Medical Education and Registration for the Province, consisting of twelve elected territorial members, and one representative chosen by each graduating or teaching Medical body then existing or hereafter to be organized. All persons licensed under Upper or Lower Canada Acts at the time it was passed, were entitled to registration. The duty of the Council was to lay down the Medical curriculum for the Medical Colleges, the graduates of which would be entitled to registration. Candidates who had not attended Canadian Colleges had to show that they had completed the curriculum as ordered, and to be examined by a Board appointed by the Council.