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Original Articles.

RELATION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION TO THE PUBLIC.*

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Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—To me has fallen the honor of addressing you upon a branch of the relation of our profession to the public, under the general heading of Public Health Aspects—embracing: (1) The need of county officers of health. (2) Remuneration for registration of births, deaths, and infectious diseases, and for attendance upon the poor. (3) Compulsory vaccination. (4) Protective organization.

This is an extensive list of subjects, and feeling my utter inability, even if the time allotted to me were much greater, to deal adequately with them, I have merely outlined the various matters, leaving it for you to supply in your discussion the very great deal which may be said regarding these important subjects.

Taking the first topic, that of the need in this province of County Officers of Health. You all know very well that under the present system, there being a health officer in each municipality, or, at least, that the law provides for such, the regulations regarding health matters are often very poorly carried out.

The reason is not far to seek. A physician is appointed to this office. He receives either no salary or, if any, a mere

*Read at a meeting of the Ontario Medical Association.