

violating the health laws and that he or she can recognize contagious diseases.

But as representing a large and influential medical association, may it not be permissible to suggest that no recognition of any sort be granted the Christian Scientist in the matter of treating sickness. To go the length of conceding that the Christian Scientist who wishes to heal people for gain, should secure a certificate from the Provincial Board of Health that such person can diagnose contagious diseases, is introducing a feature into the medical legislation of this Province that may prove far reaching and mischievous. Many religious bodies might try to qualify some of their following to the extent called for in the Act, and, thereby, do much harm to the general practice of medicine and the general safety of the people. The concession suggested by the learned Commissioner, though limited in extent, and apparently safeguarded, is capable of much abuse in the future.

If the recommendation of the learned Commission, No. 8, became the law of the Province, it would open up a short-cut to the practice of medicine in general. A designing person, under the cloak of Christian Science, might acquire such familiarity with and knowledge of contagious diseases as would enable him to obtain a certificate from the Provincial Board of Health. He would then embark on the wider field of treating all kinds of disease. There should be only one portal into the medical profession, that fixed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The Ontario Medical Association would therefore, most respectfully, but strongly, contend that the Christian Scientists be placed in exactly the same position as all other religious bodies, namely, the right to minister spiritually to their followers; but to enjoy no other privileges in the treatment of disease and injuries than those enjoyed by any citizen or member of any other religious body, namely, to render such aid as a non-skilled person may be able to give, and without fee.

VI. Optometry.

The Ontario Medical Association is not able to concur fully with the Commissioner in what he has to say regarding Optometry. The Opticians are with us, and it is for them to improve themselves by study. There does not appear to be any need for the creation of a sort of quasi profession with just enough medical knowledge to prove dangerous to the public. There can be no objection to some provision in the legislation of the Province to the effect that all those outside of the medical profession who would do refraction work and prescribe glasses must first obtain a certificate of competency for such work from some accredited board. Beyond this the law should not go in the recognition of a separate body.

Nor can the Ontario Medical Association concur in the recommendation that the Universities provide additional courses of instruction as intimated on page 41. A much better course would be to lay the responsibility upon the Universities to furnish a more extensive course on refraction work to the Medical Students than that now given. This would tend to supersede the need for the Optometrist, and be logically in line with that part of the Commissioner's report where he urges more teaching of physical therapy in order that there be no need for the Osteopath. This appears to be the only logical course. If Optometry is to be made a quasi profession, why not the same with Dermatology, etc.?