

For this state of things, I, for one have no fault to find with the sovereign people. The fact is, that we have for some years demanded very little more of the State than that we should be let alone. We have not until lately asked to have our laboratories or colleges endowed, even by individuals. We have assumed that our colleges are private institutions in which no one but the students who attended them and the professors who owned them were at all interested."

Such opposition resulted in what now exists, and which the better part of the American profession laments, viz., that anyone can get a degree to practice Medicine. The State must be appealed to to remedy such a state of affairs, and to make of the great colleges, universities where young men may enter directly upon professional and post-graduate studies. Referring to places outside of New England, Dr. Roosa remarked, "There are homeopaths and eclectics in Canada and in Virginia and Alabama, where such a system, as the State Society of New York advocates, is in full action, and yet no political difficulty, but the greatest benefit, has been found in the operation of the law." A very strong and effective point was made when the speaker pointed out that in the army and navy a standard was demanded by the Government for their physicians and surgeons. Further on he said, "Certainly the State should restrain mad dogs from running at large, and regulate the storage of gunpowder. The State may certainly not concern itself whether a doctor knows the French language or the fundamentals of good geology; but it certainly should know whether a licensed practitioner can really practice whatever would be everywhere conceded as the essentials of his art." To even the most unreasoning it must seem unanswerable to assert that the general public ought to be protected by law, even when not demanded through their ignorance and indifference, and the time has indeed passed when believers of gifts in healing, and "the seventh son of the seventh son" can be allowed to practice upon the credulous to the general detriment of the public health. "There is really no subject in which the community at large has a more vital interest than the quality of its medical men. Everyone, except an occasional railer at our impotence, who mourns that we cannot compass the infinite and cause men and women to avoid

the awful but irrevocable truth, 'What a man soweth, that shall he also reap,' realizes that physicians are important as individuals to the general public; but it is for our recognition as a great factor in the various parts that make up the edifice that we call the State, that I plead."

The plea so powerfully and eloquently set up for the unity of the profession in the United States by raising, in some degree, the legal status of the profession, does not in the same sense or degree, exist in Canada; but any one who observes the many and diverse currents influencing medical thought and practice in Canada, cannot but feel that unification is in large degree yet to be accomplished here. Too often are medical men set in opposition to each other through the injudicious action of themselves, and especially of their friends; instead of recognizing in a broad way the many-sided work of the profession, each is too often led off into some by-path, or in earnestly following the truth in one direction, loses a view of its other phases. Elevation of the dignity of the profession by every avenue open to it, will prove the only means by which its unity can become in any degree complete or its aspirations fulfilled.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL LIBRARY.

AFTER some delay, largely on account of the uncompleted building of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the library has become an established fact, and with November its doors were opened to its members, to come, it is hoped, from all parts of the Province. In addition to the Committee with its Secretary and Treasurer, a lady librarian has been appointed to be on regular duty, so that the members may at any time obtain the privileges of the reading room. This is fitted up with extensive shelf accommodation and ample table facilities for the very fair collection of exchanges and regular medical periodicals. The collection so far includes a very considerable number of old standard authors and magazines; but requires a very considerable addition of new works before it can be said to be to any extent complete. But for that matter, indeed, a library can never be complete. The rooms of the Toronto Medical Society are on the same floor and the convenience of its members has been fully consulted. Slips are supplied to any physicians wishing to add works to the library, and the hearty