

second class—not to say ‘bourgeois’—in the trammels and regulations whereby each province shuts itself off from the rest of the Dominion, enacts its own laws bearing upon the conditions of medical practice, determines its own standard of education for a license and hinders those licensed by other provinces from setting foot within its boundaries. That same spirit which brought about confederation and which is now rapidly making Canada—as mistress in her own house and that house not divided against itself (to mix up two metaphors of very diverse origin)—a power in the world at large, that same spirit makes us of the medical profession demand that the exercise of our profession in its broader details be regulated upon national rather than upon provincial lines. Were medicine a trade, adventure, or other mercantile concern, the case might be different. It might then be defensible to organize the medical men of each province into a closed corporation and to rigorously prevent all outsiders from poaching upon the provincial preserves. But the first aim of the physician is to be of service to his fellow men; commercial conditions are of right but secondary. Ours is *par excellence* the liberal profession, and this being so, regulations regarding practice should be most liberal.

How absurd it would seem were any religious body in any province to exact that no outsider could exercise religion in that province save under pains and penalties, that no one could minister to the mind diseased save and except he had passed each and all of the examinations of the provincial Bishops or other court of examiners. What should we think of the provincial Presbyterian Assembly of British Columbia for example, if it refused to allow a minister to be called from Prince Edward Island, because in his student days he had not attended a course of lectures upon the doctrinal and other differences between the “Moderates,” the “Anti-burghers,” the “Auld Lights,” the “U.P.s. &c.,” or of the provincial Synod of the Province of Ontario, if it forbade the Bishops to license a former student of the Diocesan College in this city because the Montreal curriculum did not include a course of instruction upon the proper conduct of Mothers’ Meetings with attendance, and practical work at twenty of the same? We surmise that the verdict would be that the Provincial Assembly, as a body, were a set of sempiternal fools, and that (heedless of the contradiction in terms) we should hold the Synod as damned as it was divine. The one thing needful is a guarantee that all admitted to practice medicine in the Dominion have reached a certain standard of education. Remembering the great responsibility of the practitioner it is necessary that that standard be high.

At the same time in the proposed measure we are bound to take into account the provincial powers and provincial privileges already existing, and, in order to put an end to the present unworthy condition of