

EVIDENCE IN BEHALF OF THE MEDICAL BILL.

We herewith publish the evidence taken before the select committee of the House on the Bill to amend and consolidate the Act relating to the practice of Medicine and Surgery in Ontario.

Daniel Clark, M.D., of Princeton, County of Oxford, being called stated as follows :

That a Bill similar to this was approved by Dr. Campbell, he himself having drafted it, except as to number of Homœopathic representatives in Council, and attributes Dr. Campbell's opposition now to not having been elected President of Council. The reason for the proposed reduction was that the Homœopathic branch only numbers less than fifty, whilst the Allopathic branch over fifteen hundred, and the representatives to the former were five while to the latter twelve. As to the reduction in the number of examiners to nine, it is chiefly on the ground of expense. It cost nearly one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each examination, and recently there has been a change in the mode of appointment so as to economize. As to the Eclectics being merged into the general body, this is on account of there being no essential difference, only nominal. They are to continue to have their representatives during the remainder of the current term, and also for the first term under the new Act. They have five representatives in the Council, and one of them (Dr. Muir) is now the Vice-President.

As to the Assessment clause, Sub-section 4, Section 22, the real intention is, that for the current year an assessment of one dollar shall be made absolute, but that for subsequent years this power should be permissive to be exercised by by-law of the Council, and also as to the amount ; but in his own view he would prefer that a maximum should be fixed by the Act. The penal clauses are necessary to protect the public against itinerant unlicensed practitioners ; such practitioners also have the effect of deterring students and practitioners from becoming licensed.

Dr. Campbell in the Council has assented to at least ninety per cent. of the subjects ; in medical education the distinctive features of different systems being only ten per cent. There is no objection to the Homœopaths retaining their number of five. He did not, personally, place much stress on the difference in medical treatment. He only

desired improvement in general medical training and education. Under irresponsible bodies men of great ignorance, both general and professional, were authorized to practise. Under the former system, medical graduates alone amounted to about 180 per annum, while this number is now reduced to between 40 and 50.

Since the present Act came into operation, higher attainments have resulted, the examinations being rigid and carefully conducted. He had conversed with some of the persons who had signed the petitions in favor of the Homœopathic Bill, and they stated that they had done so without having a thorough knowledge of the dispute between the two branches, and if they had known they would not have signed them. This refers to petitions emanating from Woodstock and its neighborhood.

Section 14 of the proposed Bill is one which Dr. Campbell highly approved of, and is a concession on the part of the general profession.

Dr. Aikins was next called, and stated that it will be found that at least 95 per cent. of medical subjects are common to all branches, and only five per cent. involving peculiar theories on the treatment of disease. He produced the curriculum of the Homœopathic Hospital College, Cleveland, Ohio, which showed that the Text Books, except on the medical treatment of disease, are such as are used generally in the medical schools in Canada and the United States. He did not think there could be any objection to dispense entirely with an examination upon medical treatment, and this could be done without danger. Of the registered Homœopathic Practitioners in Ontario, Dr. Campbell is the only one who has a British or Colonial degree.

So far as the Eclectics are concerned they do not differ in any respect from the general profession, the only question being as to the text books, which they claim should be the more recent ones. They obtained authority in 1859 to form a Board, but the members had not previously been licensed practitioners. He also confirmed Dr. Clark's statement as to Dr. Campbell's approval of the working of the Council and the present proposed Bill, excepting the reduction in number of the Homœopathic representation. The reasons for the proposed reduction were as follows :—

1. The general expense attending the examina-