

Canada Medical Journal.

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MEETING OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, LOWER CANADA.

In another column we publish the report of the triennial meeting of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada, which was held recently at Three Rivers. It will be observed that the College adopted a very important amendment to their by-laws, bearing on the licensing of chemists and druggists.

Some misconception has existed as to the power possessed by the College to grant a license to practice to chemists and druggists. We have never doubted the legality of the action of the College in this respect, as the functions of the old Medical Board, established in the reign of George the Third, were continued to the College at the time of the passing of the act incorporating the medical profession, in the year 1747.

In the year 1864 the College sought for and obtained an amendment to their charter, whereby all chemists and druggists applying for license and enregistration were obliged to produce evidence of having attended a certain curriculum. This measure was obtained in the interests of the chemists and druggists, as it was thought very desirable that these gentlemen should take rank as professional men, and not be looked upon as merchants. There was no desire on the part of the College to force their license on the chemists and druggists. The College is in point of fact the legally constituted body to regulate these matters, and give to the public an assurance of competency on the part of dispensers.

It has been felt desirable that the chemists and druggists should possess legislative recognition, and secure for themselves an act of incorporation, with powers to regulate their curriculum and mode of examination. The action of the College in the motion, which will be found elsewhere, was suggested by the fact that several chemists and druggists applied for examination without the prescribed curriculum, and based their claim for enregistration on the statement that they were in actual practice before the year 1864.