

# MEDICAL CRITICISM.

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“ FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH  
OF ONTARIO,  
BEING FOR THE YEAR 1882.

*Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly.”*

With that *disinterestedness* which has led the Medical Profession to keep a representative garrison on duty in the Legislative Assembly, for *the sole purpose* of watching over the health-interests of the public, and to employ a detective officer for the purpose of prosecuting all Quacks except those who are perceptible in their mirrors—With the like *self-sacrificing disinterestedness*, the representatives of this noble (?) profession induced the Government to introduce a Bill in the session of 1871-72, with a view to establish a Provincial Board of Health for Ontario, a Board which is to maintain intimate relations with all Local Boards which, under the Act, (36 Vic. cap. 48) are already in existence, or may yet be organized. This august Board has now issued its first Report, the “various diverse subjects” of which it has arranged under eight heads, in order that the contents may “appear more interesting and more readily attainable than if they were loosely arranged in chronological order throughout.” We hope no one will suggest that *the heads of the Board* appear (by their diction) to have been “loosely arranged”; we think it probable that ourselves may find some occupation for the said heads; we observe that they commence their report by arguing “the necessity for” their existence, and they quote one Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, who is said to have delivered *the centennial discourse* (a discourse presumably delivered every hundred years) on Public Hygiene, before the International Medical Congress of 1876. This gentleman relieved himself of the following oracular utterance, on the occasion. “*Theoretically* Public Hygiene in the most important matter any community can discuss, for upon it, in its perfection, depend all the powers, moral, intellectual, and physical, of a state.” The “loosely arranged” heads proceed to plaster the powers who have constituted the Board, in the following style.—“Recognizing a growing belief on the part of the people in the axiomatic truth of this (the foregoing) statement, carefully appreciating the opinions of the general public, and being actuated by an earnest and solicitous concern for the welfare of the people over whom it has been called to rule (here it is obvious that the “loosely arranged” forget their “D. V.”), the Government last session introduced a Bill, and the public representatives in the Legislature (unhappy dupes) agreed to its clauses, establishing a “Provincial Board of Health for Ontario, &c.” The subject of “Immigrant Inspection” is that which