

MARCH, 1884.

Phrenological Soundings of M. P. Ps.

No. XIV.

J. CASCADEN, ESQ.

A member of Parliament who at the same time happens to be a physician, obviously occupies a position of two-fold responsibility; the responsibility attaching to such a gentleman's professional position is enhanced by the existence of Medical Protection Acts which practically perpetuate the ignorance and bigotry of a traditional system, and encourage the adherents of that system in their refusal to avail themselves of any means of cure which have not been known in past ages. In taking a phrenological view of the member for the West Riding of Elgin however, we recognize the existence of faculties, from the exercise of which, we are entitled to expect that he at least will not be unmindful of his duty. That duty, in the present session, is rendered the more distinct, from the circumstance of a petition having been presented to the House in which Dr. Cascaden sits, signed by eight physicians of Toronto, and by 392 other residents of the city, the prayer of which is that the House should appoint a Committee with a view to receive evidence on the subject of the prevailing modes of treating disease, and into the working of the Acts relating thereto. Inasmuch as petitions can be smothered, when sufficient interest is brought to bear on the Government for that purpose, we reprint that portion of this which is not quoted above.* We will only observe with regard to it, that it has been presented in the name of His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto and others of Toronto, which others include the Bishop of the Episcopal Church, several editors of jour-

**To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, in Parliament assembled:*

Inasmuch as, during the ten years terminating in 1880, upwards of 321,000 deaths occurred in Ontario, and in the latter year 44,000, and inasmuch as the official statistics show that half this appalling number died under the age of twenty, and according to the testimony of the Registrar General of this Province, nearly one-half of the human race dies before reaching maturity (in 1877 more than one half) your petitioners are of opinion that it is time to enquire among the various competitive systems of treating disease, if anything can be effected towards diminishing suffering and prolonging life.