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## Original Articles

### THE MEDICAL COMMISSION \*

#### IRREGULAR PRACTITIONERS.

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I HAVE been asked to speak as to my own personal experience with irregular practitioners.

They are a menace to the public and to society generally, chiefly from two standpoints:

1. *Because of their undertaking to cure disease of which they know nothing and thereby prolonging suffering.*
2. *Because their ill-directed efforts are not always free from danger to life itself.*

There are a large number of persons in this Province who are more or less weak-minded. If they are admitted to an asylum many of them at times are so bright and clever that their friends will not believe that they are fit subjects for an asylum. Friends induce the relations of such people to try something new, something that it is supposed medical men do not know anything about, something that has some mystery about it.

The irregular practitioner, not understanding anything of insanity, looks upon these cases as any other person who did not understand mental conditions might, as being a mere nervous affection, and at once promises a cure. The patient is taken into a half hospital, half private house, where the irregular practi-

\* This series of articles represent the views of different members of the profession, as laid before His Lordship Mr. Justice Hodgins, K.C., Medical Commissioner in the investigation that has been under way for the past two months or more, and we feel gratified to be in a position to give our readers throughout the Dominion the benefit of such interesting material.

