

opportunity to attend, and does not, fails in his duty to his profession, to himself, and to his patients. It is not enough to belong to his local society, and it is not correct or fair to hold that the Provincial Association takes the place of, or is in any way the rival of, the Canada Medical. The provincial societies should be its feeders, for, while the provincial associations are necessary to unite and to promote the brotherhood of the profession in each province, it is the Canada Medical that is the common bond of the profession of the Dominion, that knows no provincial boundaries, and unites the medical men from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But here we find an anomaly which, it seems to me, is a disgrace to the profession. Any medical man of good standing in his own province is eligible for membership of this association, and can attend its meetings anywhere; but, if he wishes to practise, the moment he crosses the imaginary line which bounds his own province, he is met by a shibboleth both vexatious and humiliating.

A man who, for a quarter of a century or upwards, has practised with credit and success is, on entering another province, required to pass the examination of a student; the examiners, perhaps, men without a tithe of his experience or ability—men perhaps unborn when he entered the profession. Surely this state of affairs should not and need not exist. Its inconvenience and unfairness must be manifest to all, and it should be the duty of this association to remove the anomaly. It has been several times brought to its notice. I remember hearing it discussed in, I think, the year 1869, by the president, Doctor, now Sir Charles, Tupper, but so far we have done nothing. The different standards of matriculation and education, the varying width of the portals to the profession in the different provinces, is, I think, the main obstacle. And one can easily see the unfairness of asking a province where the standard is high, the period of study required long, the examination rigid, and where the university degree gives a man no right to practise, to admit, on equal terms, men who have qualified in provinces where they are admitted on much easier terms, and where the university degree of M.D. is all that is required to obtain a license or to register. One can see that the result would be "a beggarly account of empty" benches in their colleges, while their students would go in crowds to the universities in the provinces where they found a royal and easy road to practice.

The only way to accomplish this is to establish a common curriculum, a common standard, a common portal to the profession, for all the provinces in the Dominion; and when a man has once entered he should be entitled to register in any of them; and as medical education, like the Roman eagles, cannot be allowed to retrograde, the requirements to practice should be based upon those of the province where these are the high-