

Soon after the formation of the legislatures, the medical profession in each province believing it to be in their interest, as well as in the interest of the public, sought and obtained from their respective legislatures an act, entitled "The Medical Act," which provided for the formation and election of a Medical Council.

By virtue of the provisions of this Act, the licensing power and the complete control of medical education were given to and vested in this body. This Council was to be a representative body and to be re-elected once in a given number of years. Unfortunately, no concerted action took place between the members of the profession in the different provinces before appealing to the legislatures, and the results were just what might naturally be expected, striking differences in the acts asked for and obtained. These diversities still exist and it is these dissimilarities that offer to-day the greatest barrier to interprovincial registration.

To my mind there is nothing of more importance to the medical profession in Canada than uniformity in medical legislation. Now that we are nearly all of one mind, only divided upon issues which are of no vital importance, let us make an earnest appeal to our law-makers and have the clauses not in harmony repealed. I trust that at this meeting a representative committee may be appointed to draft a medical act suitable for the whole Dominion. When this is accomplished, a copy can be placed in the hands of each Provincial Medical Council, with the request that they appeal to their respective Legislatures to amend their existing medical acts so as to harmonize them with the proposed one and have them become law. Interprovincial registration will then be an easy matter and would be readily accomplished. Then we could turn our eyes eastward to the Mother Country and seek reciprocity with her; and, as she has always listened attentively to any reasonable request made by us, we might confidently look for the day soon to arrive when our prayer would be allowed, and any man obtaining a license in any of our provinces would be free to practice medicine in any land where floats the Union Jack.

Several members of this Association have gone over to the silent majority during the past year. I will not name any of those worthy men who laboured for the welfare of their fellow creatures. All should be named or none. While in this life they were ever ready to discharge all moral obligations, toiling night and day, living on the stimulant of duty performed, always ready to lighten somebody's burden, knowing but little rest or comfort in this world. Let us