

The Medical Act of Upper Canada.

The Ontario Legislature—that is, the Parliament of what was formerly Upper Canada—has passed an Act for the regulation of the medical profession in Ontario. It creates a Council for carrying out the purposes of the Act: to be composed of representatives of all the universities, colleges, and medical schools in Upper Canada; of twelve members to be elected from the registered practitioners of medicine according to territorial divisions mentioned in Schedule C; and of certain other strange representatives to be noticed immediately. It provides for the registration of medical men, and gives them legal status and powers of recovery in courts, in a way similar to our own Act. Moreover, it provides for the registration of qualifications granted in other parts of Canada, provided that the curriculum shall be equal to that established in Ontario, and that the privilege be reciprocated. Persons neglecting or omitting to register are not entitled to any of the rights or privileges conferred by the Act. The penal clause for irregular practice, though at points somewhat carelessly drawn, is an improvement upon our 40th clause.

Two very distinguishing features of the Act remain to be noticed: one of them is, perhaps, to be praised; the other cannot be too severely condemned. The first is to be seen in clauses 24 and 25, which require the Council, at its first regular meeting, to appoint a Board of Examiners to examine all candidates for registration. This Board is to be composed of members representing the three teaching bodies now existing in Ontario and every school of medicine which may hereafter be established, and nine members chosen from members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario not connected with the teaching bodies. We could heartily wish to see our various and incomplete examinations centralised in one perfect examination qualifying for general practice.

The other remarkable and most objectionable feature of the measure is, that it gives a representation in the Council, to the number of five members, to licensed practitioners in homoeopathy, and makes special provision for the examination of homoeopaths by stipulating that they shall only be examined in certain subjects by examiners approved by the homoeopathic representatives in the Council. A similar representation in the Council, and a similar provision for a special examination, is conceded to believers in the "eclectic system of medicine," whatever that may be.

We regret that otherwise so good a Bill should be spoiled by the introduction of provisions which must make the Ontario qualifications objects of distrust to our own Council and to the Medical Councils in all countries where the scientific spirit is predominant. We have always advocated a generous recognition of our own colonial diplomas; but if they are to be granted by bodies so composed as the Council and Examining Board created by the Medical Act of Ontario, we shall have gravely to reconsider our opinions on this matter.—*Lancet*.

ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, April 6th, 1868.

Yesterday afternoon a special meeting of the Ontario Medical Council was held for the purpose of passing the By-law regulating the mode of holding elections, in accordance with the provisions of the new Act, as well as appointing a Board of Examiners, etc. The members present were:—Drs. Grant, President; Atkins and Berryman, Toronto; Clarke, Guelph; Sullivan, Lavell and Dickson, Kingston; Askin, Chatham; Morton, Bradford; Brouse, Prescott; Fulton, Fingal; Patulla, Brampton; McGill, Oshawa, and Dewar, Port Hope.

Dr. GRANT occupied the Chair, and, in opening the proceedings, said:—As you are doubtless fully aware, this is the final meeting of the Medical Council under the old Medical Bill, and a new state of affairs is about to be introduced. During the three years that have elapsed since the first organization of this Council, some small degree of good has no doubt resulted from the meetings in various parts of the Province of Ontario. Medical men have thus been enabled to know and understand each other better in many respects, and the very interchange of thought and friendly association has tended to subvert the Shakespearian idea that we are the "jealous members of the conjectural art." We live in an age of progress and an age of advancement in many respects; and in a new Dominion, such as Canada, radical changes, even of a medical nature, must be very gradually introduced. In the process of medical advancement, difficulties unforeseen arise in everything pertaining to legislative enactment. However, during the term of office which has now elapsed, we can, without the fear of contradiction, assert that some good results have, so far, arisen out of our labors. A uniform system of matriculation for medical students has become law, and on this point the members of the Council have had ample proof of the beneficial results likely to accrue from closer attention to preliminary education. The youth of our country have ample opportunities, which, when properly embraced, seldom fail to give that place of distinction they occupy in competitive examination. Again, the new Medical Bill of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario compels those students who study at each of the Medical Colleges in Ontario to undergo examinations, equal in every respect as to test, of ability and efficiency. No one body will be dealt with to the detriment of the other. No distinction will be known, but that arising from mental capacity and proficiency in medical study. He felt satisfied that when the students were well grounded in the chief branches of medical education, and were obliged to pass through a regular curriculum, many would be added to the ranks of our noble profession. The chief object of the present meeting was to frame a By-law for the new elections to take place in June next, and he trusted that, whoever their successors to office might be, they would, when chosen by the body of the profession, exercise their best endeavors to make the medical profession occupy a place of power, of pride, and of distinction in the Dominion. (Cheers.)

THE MEDICAL BILL.

Dr. CLARKE presented the following report of the committee appointed to procure amendments to the Medical Bill:

"That after a protracted attendance before the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and against the strongest opposition from various sources, they succeeded in procuring the passage of the new Bill, which they believe embodies all the amendments which they were directed by the Council to procure with other amendments and improvements, which they believe will be of the utmost benefit to the whole profession, and will also be satisfactory to the public."

Dr. CLARKE moved, seconded by Dr. BROUSE, "That the report be adopted." Carried.