

any other body of practitioners in those cities, will lay aside all party or sectional motives, and come forward with a practically useful and comprehensive measure, it might be well, on many accounts, to submit to their leadership. But gentlemen in the country must bear the fact in mind, that business, to be well and satisfactorily conducted, must be superintended by the parties immediately interested. Past experience, however, has shown how difficult it is to assemble a large body of medical men at a distance from their homes, and in many instances good reasons might be assigned for the refusal of individuals to attend such meetings; but this difficulty might be obviated in a great measure by the appointment of proxies, with full instructions from their principals.

Supposing the attention of the great body of the profession to have been awakened by the means suggested above, I should think that a plan of ultimate procedure, something like the following, might be adopted. If the societies of Toronto and Montreal, and four or five of the district societies, would each draft a bill to incorporate the profession in two distinct colleges, and then appoint a central committee, composed of delegates and proxies, whose duty it should be to form, out of the materials thus furnished, one bill embracing the views, as far as possible, of all the societies, there can be little doubt that the wishes of the profession would be fully met. A petition founded upon this bill, and embracing the principal features of all its clauses, should then be drawn up, printed, and transmitted to every practitioner in the Province. All this, it is true, would be attended with some trouble, but the pecuniary cost would be trifling. As a means of procuring signatures for the copies to be afterwards laid before the Legislature, each recipient of a printed copy might be directed to return his copy to the central committee with his name written at the bottom over the word approved, and in case of disapproval to retain it, the postage, which for a printed copy would be only a half-penny, to be paid both ways by the addressed. Signatures obtained in this way could then be transferred to the manuscript copy for presentation, the committee vouching for them. These hints are offered without apology, because the writer knows they will be taken only for what they are worth. There is one most important question united with the subject of these letters, to which I must beg to direct the attention of the reader.

A claim put forth by a respectable and well known institution—the Montreal Medical School—has been made the subject of an able editorial in one of the numbers of your Journal, and the arguments employed to combat the pretensions of that school, and to show the impolicy of increasing the number of institutions having the power of granting *ad practicandum* diplomas, ap-

pear to me to be unanswerable. I approach this subject with diffidence, because I feel that I am treading on dangerous ground, but I cannot permit any consideration of a purely personal nature to interfere with the expression of my opinions upon a subject of such vast importance. Whether the gentlemen connected with the school referred to, propose to follow up their claim at the next meeting of parliament, I am not qualified to say, but I cannot hesitate to declare that the concession of that claim would be productive of the most serious injury to the profession, and by its effects as a precedent, to the best interests of the public generally. The evils resulting from a union of the duties of teaching and licensing in the same hands, have been ably set forth, not only in the editorial above alluded to, but more recently by Professor Stewart of New York, and I am persuaded that every unprejudiced mind who has read the address of that gentleman, (republished, I believe, in the June number of your Journal,) will agree with me, that no greater evil could befall us than the adoption of a system such as that practised in the United States. I agree entirely with the movers of the resolution passed at a late medical convention in New York, which proposes a separation of the duties of teaching from those which pertain to the granting of diplomas or licences, and I am decidedly of opinion that the privilege of granting diplomas, having the character of licenses, should not only be refused to the School of Medicine, but that it should be taken away, if possible, from every other institution in the Province by which it is at present enjoyed. The welfare of the public, and the respectability of the Profession, both imperatively demand that the examinations of candidates for license should never be conducted by parties connected with them as public or private teachers.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. D., &c.

Toronto, August 20, 1846.

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BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

- The Canadian Magazine. No. 4.
- Annual Catalogue, University of State of New-York.
- Stockton's Dental Intelligencer. No. 10.
- Minutes of the Proceedings of the National Medical Convention, held in the city of New-York, May, 1846.
- Illustrated Botany. No. 6.
- Buffalo Medical Journal. No. 3.
- St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal. No. 2.
- Dublin Medical Press. July 8, 15, 22, 29.
- New-York Medical and Surgical Reporter. 21, 22.
- Medical Examiner. No. 20.
- Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. Vol. xxxv. 1, 2 and 3.
- Southern Medical and Surgical Journal. No. 8.