

sideration of their confreres, and the people's representatives. What was done? Once more the lights are turned down, and in the dying hours of the session, the sixty-fourth day, the Bill, for the first time, sees the light of day. It received its first reading, was printed, received its second reading, was referred to and considered by a special committee, reported to the House, reprinted, considered in committee of the whole House, received its third reading, and was ready for the royal assent in the phenomenally short period of eleven working days of the House. I venture to say that the indecent haste which characterized the passage of this Bill through all its stages can scarcely find a parallel in the annals of legislation. It was impossible, in this short space of time, for the profession to ascertain the purport of the Bill, much less give it due consideration, and this was evidently the intention of its promoters. Moreover, it was impossible, with all the rush of work in the last days of the session, even for the legislators to unravel and detect the extraordinary powers granted by the Bill, so cunningly were they concealed by the crafty hand of the gifted Queen's Counsel who prepared it.

Having thus glanced briefly at the curious and secret methods adopted for securing the legislation of 1891, let us now look at its character and scope so far as it affects the profession. In the first place, the Council took the power of erasing from the register the names of members of the College who failed to pay their annual dues; but the Medical Council, only twelve of whose twenty-seven members are elected by the general profession, being an irresponsible body, like the old Family Compact, determined to go further and grasp greater powers than those possessed by any of the governing bodies of any of the professions in this province, and in its Act of 1891, it surreptitiously seized power by which any medical man became liable to be sent to prison, who did not meekly pay in his annual tribute, and dared to continue to make his bread and butter by his profession. But *irresponsibility* took even greater and more arbitrary power than this. Let me illustrate. John Smith, M.D., has been practising his profession for over fifty years, and now, in the evening of his life, has abandoned his profession completely and his name is dropped from the

register, but "John Smith, M.D.," remains in its historic place upon the door, and for this crime the Council took power by which the old retired practitioner may be taken into court and fined \$100 and costs, and if the money is not paid before leaving the court, the convicting justice "may commit the offender to the common gaol." If this is not tyrannical power, will you, Sir, kindly inform me what is? It may be well before closing this letter to point out the sections of the Act by which these far-reaching powers were accomplished. Sections 45, 47 and 51 were in the old Act and only applied to quacks and villains. The extraordinary powers of section 51 (imprisonment) were given mainly to stop impostors coming over from the United States, plying their unlawful trade, and when fined, "skipping" out without paying the fine. By the notorious section 41 A, all these "quack and villain" sections became applicable to every member of the profession who did not see eye to eye with the Council and obey its behests.

With your permission, Mr. Editor, in my next I shall point out the extent of the revolt in the profession, against the determined effort of a conglomerate council to enforce an annual impost and make rules and regulations for the government of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, and the reasons for this resistance.

Yours, etc.,

J. W. McLAUGHLIN.

Bowmanville, April 6th, 1894.

Book Notices.

An American Text-Book of the Diseases of Children, including special chapters on essential surgical subjects, diseases of eye, ear, nose, throat, etc., by American teachers. Edited by LOUIS STARR, M.D., Physician to Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, etc., assisted by T. S. WESTCOTT, M.D., Physician to Dispensary for Diseases of Children. Price, \$8.00, cloth. Sale by subscription only. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders.

The continuation of the series of works by Americans has its value enhanced by this edition of Starr's on Diseases of Children. The standard of excellence shown in the gynecology and medi-