

difficulties, some of which were incidental to the transitional stage of the law. Publicity was given to the act in various ways—at least its main clauses touching the preliminary examination and registration—so that students might become acquainted with its nature. This was regarded as a *sine qua non* to its successful administration. While endeavoring to see that the provisions of the act were duly observed, it has ever been the aim of the Board to deal out even-handed justice to all—nothing more, nothing less—to avoid seeming favoritism on the one hand, or harshness on the other. Having been one of its members for the past six years, attended its meetings regularly, and familiarized myself with every case that came up for consideration, I am in a position to speak from actual knowledge. During that period some exceedingly delicate and unpleasant questions had to be considered and disposed of, questions which the Board would gladly have avoided if the members had consulted their own feelings. Yet a duty had been imposed upon them, and they patiently and calmly inquired into all the facts before taking any action. You would be surprised if I were to tell you of the amount of time given before some cases were disposed of. It was felt that the success of the law depended upon its judicious and careful administration; so that it was thought to temper justice with mercy and spare the feelings of a professional brother in every possible way if he was honestly endeavoring to carry out the law. I know that we did not always succeed, though our intentions were good. We were sometimes placed between Scylla and Charybdis; the individual blaming us for undue severity and members of the profession blaming us for undue leniency—a pretty good proof that we had pursued the golden mean. I can truly say that I cannot recall a single instance in which I would feel called upon to do otherwise if the case had to

be dealt with anew. From my experience of my associates upon the Board I would be quite content to trust the case of any friend with them.

Although the matriculation examination and registration are distinct and independent acts, separated under the provisions of the statute by a period of four years, yet in carrying them out the Board had often to deal with them together. The statute plainly says that the matriculation is to be passed *before* beginning the study of medicine; yet at first it was frequently violated. Some took one or more years of their medical course or even completed their studies before matriculating. To leave the latter until the medical course had been completed was not only contrary to the letter of the law, but it was a reversal of the natural order of things; as it was intended that the whole four years should be devoted to medical study. Who would ever have the hardihood to suppose that he could take one or more years of his course in Arts before matriculating? Seldom did any difficulty arise of this nature from those who studied at the Halifax Medical School, as they were always carefully informed as to the law beforehand. Yet any one could easily obtain information about the act by writing to the Registrar and save himself trouble as well as the Board. The failure to pass the preliminary matriculation, and at the proper time, was often the only barrier to registration. It was sure to come up at the latter time, if it had been neglected. Defective matriculation examination as well as defective medical courses have given the Board much trouble. The former have been accepted so far as they meet our standard, but a supplementary examination is required to meet the deficiencies. As the Canadian Medical Schools all require a four years' course, it is seldom that their students have difficulty about registration, where they have taken a full course in Canada. The curr