

unbroken expanse of forest, and realized that this was the home upon which they had based great hopes. Some found employment in connection with the hospital which had been established, but this did not last long, as the home authorities complained to Cornwallis that he supported too many surgeons and apothecaries. Only three out of the twenty-eight appear to have had the courage to face such a future. These remained with the other colonists, shared their hardships, and achieved some measure of success. The names of the three were Robert Grant, John Steele, and Alexander Abercrombie. These were the pioneers in medicine in Halifax. Grant became a member of His Majesty's Council; Steele, a member of the House of Assembly; and Abercrombie, when he died twenty-eight years later, was deeply lamented, both for his medical skill and his benevolent disposition. The fate of the other twenty-five is unknown.

Only one physician accompanied the 1,500 German colonists who settled at Lunenburg, and it is uncertain whether he remained in the country. The New England and North of Ireland settlers, who came to the province prior to the Revolutionary War, were usually able to obtain medical aid. The missionaries, who regularly visited the sparsely settled and remote districts, had some medical knowledge. At some points the garrison surgeons looked after the sick. A few physicians came from New England and engaged in practice in the more thriving districts. Of these latter the professional knowledge and skill may not have been great, but they were usually resolute, enterprising men, and useful members of the community in which they lived.

A large number of medical men accompanied the Loyalists. They were well qualified. The majority had served as surgeons during the war, and their influence in improving the status of the medical profession was marked, owing to their number, skill, and strong personality. In respect to the effect of the Revolutionary War on the fortunes of physicians and surgeons, Sabine remarks:

"The physicians who adhered to the Crown were numerous, and the proportion of Whigs in the profession of medicine was probably less than in either that of law or theology. But unlike persons of the latter callings, most of the physicians remained in the country and quietly pursued their business. There seems to have been an understanding that though pulpits should be closed, and litigation be suspended, the sick should not be