

and to make progress in the future. Every movement has its past history, its present struggles, its ideals for the future.

The satisfactory condition of the medical profession in this province to-day has not been attained without much effort and a long history.

The present standard of medical education is sufficiently high, and the average attainments of the rank and file of the profession satisfactory, so that everywhere the public can obtain the services of men capable of coping with the ordinary emergencies met with in practice. The members of the profession are respected, and exercise considerable influence in social and public affairs. In their organized capacity they enjoy self-government—a privilege which they have used for the public benefit, but have never abused. There are active and energetic associations for mutual improvement and protection. The grosser forms of quackery are not prevalent, and what may be called "medical heresies" are scarcely represented. It can be affirmed without exaggeration that the position of the profession in Nova Scotia compares favorably with that which obtains in other provinces of Canada or in the states of the American Union. Such a status for the profession has not been achieved except by the continuous struggles of many generations.

It is to the past, then, that we may now turn attention for the better understanding and appreciation of the present. And if, in doing so, I should seem to present much that belongs to general history rather than specially to medical history, my excuse is that it is desirable, if not essential, to note the general condition of the province and its population, at different periods, in order to see what field there was for the special work of the profession.

It is now just three centuries since the first European settlement was made in this region of North America, at Port Royal, now Annapolis Royal, in this province, which is thus the oldest continuous European settlement on this continent north of Florida. The settlement was really made and the colony established by Poutrincourt, under a grant from de Monts, who had arrived there the previous year, 1604, with a grant, from Henry IV. of France, of all the territory between the 40th and 46th parallels of latitude. The Acadia of the seventeenth century was thus a very wide region, including the present New Brunswick, and, indeed, for a long time, the name Nova Scotia was applied to the same region. Sieur de Monts made many and extensive explorations during the summer, crossed the Bay of Fundy, and established a settlement on the island of St. Croix. The colony of St. Croix suffered great hardships during the winter of 1604-5; and it is from that