

(3) While emphatically reaffirming the principle of self-government, pure and simple, and recording my conviction that we shall eventually secure it, I am prepared—pending the full development of public and professional opinion on this point—to insist on the elimination, from the council, of the representatives of defunct institutions or those no longer having a separate corporate existence, and the strict limitation of the functions of the remaining university appointees to matters of curriculum and education.

(4) No sensible man desires to see the practice of medicine made a close monopoly, but the public is almost as much concerned as the profession in keeping the number of practitioners within reasonable bounds. Yet our ranks have been suffered to become so much overcrowded in Ontario that there are now fully twice as many medical men in the province as the public service requires. The demoralizing and injurious tendencies of this large surplusage on the profession itself must be obvious to all. The schools have, in the furtherance of their own interests, suffered the professional curriculum to become as advanced as can reasonably be required, but the same dominant influence has, since the election of the present council, secured the degradation of the matriculation standard, and, as a consequence, the new medical matriculants registered annually by the council have increased during the last three years from 70, in 1890, to 125 in 1891, and to 210 during only the first ten months of 1892. I am prepared to advocate an immediate and material increase in the requirements for matriculation, and the adoption of a single professional examination—comprehensive, rigid, and impartial—to be held at the close of the student's course of study. I do not approve of multiplied examinations on the instalment plan, or of supplemental or of simultaneous examinations. I hold that it is not the business of the council to thus oil the approaches to the profession. It appears to be quite as anxious to secure new recruits as the Foreign Mission Board of any live Christian church. I consider that this is unnecessary in the present lamentably overcrowded condition of the profession, and that in facilitating access to our ranks, by these and other means, it is alike disloyal to the public and to the medical electorate. The Medical Council owes, or should owe, a higher and a more imperative duty to those who are already members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons than to those who simply desire to become such.

(5) The finances of the council call for wise and careful management. The most rigid economy, compatible with efficiency of service, must be insisted on, and not only should a detailed annual statement of receipts and expenditure be submitted to the profession, but the accounts should be subject to an annual audit by reliable and impartial officers, appointed