

make a crooked man straight. It might be well to follow the customs of the past and make tariffs to a large extent local. A tariff framed for Toronto would not be suitable for Georgetown, Orillia or Whitby.

Hundreds of doctors in Toronto may be performing generous acts from year to year, and we hear little or nothing about them, but if two or three send unduly large bills the reports thereof spread through the city like a red hot prairie fire.

Very few doctors become wealthy. The majority are poor or making a bare living, and leave practically nothing for their families when they die. Excessive charges are very rare, and the average fees for the whole Province are low, too low I think."

Dr. John Ferguson in his paper on "Medical Practice as a Public Service," said, "Taking the great Roman aphorism, *Salus Populi Suprema lex est*, as our guide, it becomes self evident that the first and weightiest of all obligations resting upon legislators is to frame all our laws with this end in view. The *Salus Populi* must be supreme. It is for this reason that we have laws dealing with the adulteration of food, governing the sale of dangerous drugs, preventing the performing of certain operations, regulating the commitment of the insane, the inspection of ocean bound vessels, and so on.

Any law that would permit one to undertake the grave responsibilities of diagnosing disease, prescribing for human ailments, or treating diverse injuries, without first compelling such person to become as efficient as modern methods can make him, would be a crime committed by such legislation upon the people.

All history has proven that people have to be protected from themselves. In many affairs of life they are not capable of judging what is for their own good. The practice of medicine is one of these. It is one of the most complicated of modern studies, involving as it does a knowledge of a number of sciences, such as chemistry, physiology, anatomy, bacteriology, pathology, therapeutics, and the keenest training of the senses to recognize disease, and of the intellect to apply the proper remedy. Ordinarily the people are not competent to choose between the one who possesses such knowledge and the one who does not, if each is granted the right to call himself "doctor."

It is only when we regard medical practice as a public service that we get the true conception of the position of the medical profession. It may be true that many enter the profession because it holds out to them the opportunity for social position and a reasonable prospect of a sufficient income; but the law should take that other view that in licensing one to practise medicine, he is sent forth to render to the public a very