

The Legislature of Canada, before confederation, saw fit to give a legal standing to certain irregular "doctors," in most cases quacks of the highest type. One of the arguments used by the advocates of the new Act, both Legislators and Medical men is, that the country was being flooded with legal practitioners from the Boards formed of the parliament made "doctors." The Legislature of Ontario, recognizing the evil they had effected, were right in taking steps to correct the evil; but we fail to see upon what ground the regular Profession should be compelled to associate with a class of men whom they cannot respect, for the benefit of the public, which is so willing to countenance imposture. When Medical Legislators make use of this argument, we must express our unfeigned astonishment. Indeed we cannot repress the conviction that their real object is self-protection. Self-defense is natural enough, but we prefer to see it made in a straightforward way. There was no reasons why the Legislators should not look after the Homœopaths and Eclectics with the view of protecting the public, but why compel the regular Medical Profession to do the dirty work? Would Parliament have done so if recreant members had not offered to undertake the duty? At least, the proceedings of the Council show that there are enough to engage in the very questionable employment.

We are not disposed to abstract reform, and there are generally more ways than one of effecting it. It seems to us the Profession of Ontario, has entered upon a difficult as well as an unpleasant task, a task which fell not to their lot. A cess-pool is undoubtedly a nuisance, but there are different modes of removing the offense. It may be filled up, or drained off, or disinfected, or a current of pure water may be turned into it, or it may be bailed out. If the current of pure water is sufficiently strong, although fearfully contaminated for a time it may eventually wash away the mass of corruption. Of course now that the Profession have entered upon the disgusting work, we not only hope, but believe they may succeed in exterminating the foul pond. In the mean time they need not wonder if the Medical public refuse to keep company with them until their garments are purified. Our opinion is that the malarious pool could and would have been abolished by the Legislature, in the judicious use of disinfectants, and that our Profession might have kept their hands clean.

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