

severity of the examinations conducted in the institution granting the medical or surgical diploma. While I admit that we were formerly lax in allowing the indiscriminate registration of licentiates of the Apothecaries' Society, and other inferior qualifications, it does seem a grievance that an M.D. from London University or a Fellow or Member of the College of Physicians or Surgeons in Great Britain should be required to undergo a further test of his ability, at a very considerable expense, before he shall be allowed to practise in Ontario. This is not the only reason why I take exception to the legislation in question, but also because I learn from conversation with medical students that it will tend to lessen the number of young doctors who will take post-graduate courses abroad. The fact that a British diploma exempted men from passing the Ontario Medical Council was formerly an incentive to Canadian students to visit the hospitals of Great Britain, and it was of particular value to those who could not well afford to pay for both diplomas. Now that this stimulus has been taken away, I opine that as a result fewer of our young men will visit the English hospitals to try to obtain British degrees, and as a consequence the standing of the medical profession in Ontario may be ultimately impaired.

It is with sincere regret that I have to admit that our noble profession is disgraced by the action of certain medical men who carry on their practice with unblushing quackery. By means of startling advertisements in newspapers, and printed circular, they promise to cure consumption, cancer, and other fatal diseases, when any such cure is impossible, while they assure another class of patients that they are seriously ill when really their ailments are of a trivial nature. But the fault does not all lie with the medical charlatan, who is often encouraged to practice in an irregular manner by the caprices and credulity of people who seem bound to exercise their own judgment by resorting to quackery and patent medicines. Some of these quacks term themselves British Surgeons, others are called American Specialists, but all alike are only allowed to pursue their nefarious practice owing to the fact that they are registered in Ontario. Ours being a paternal form of government should protect the people by granting permission to the Ontario Med-

ical Council to cancel the diploma of any person acting in an irregular manner. Then this question could be easily disposed of by the Council, and while the public would be better protected, our profession would be freed from the few of whom we are ashamed and from whom we would be gladly separated. . . .

I would urge as one of the first means towards securing a more desirable scientific position for our profession, the establishment of a live medical society in every county in the Province of Ontario. . . .

The tariff of fees and the proper charges for medical attendance of friendly societies can be better regulated through the agencies of local societies than by any other means, and our consultants should be drawn from among those who have acquired distinction in a truly professional sense.

I am glad to know that we have some active county societies now doing good work in this Province, and those I have had the opportunity of visiting the past year have convinced me that in every county there should be similar organizations. In Eastern Ontario we have the Rideau and Bathurst, and Cataraqui Societies, both of which are in a flourishing condition. In the West we have the County of Huron Society, to which, I believe, is due the credit of being the oldest county society in the Province, and I am pleased to know that its regular quarterly meetings are well attended and highly appreciated. In other counties, as well as in most of our cities, regular medical societies are maintained, and it only requires a little individual effort on the part of the local members to have established and maintained in every county an active medical society as a branch of the Ontario Medical Association. In this connection we must not forget that one of our objects is to form a connecting link between the various city and county societies and the Canada Medical Association.

My predecessors in office have alluded to the friendly relations which should exist between this Association and the parent body (the Canada Medical Association). I can only reiterate what they have said, and may add that I trust many members of the profession in this Province will attend the next meeting of the Dominion Association, to be held at Banff, on the