

dition of affairs that in 1750 the Intendant Bigot introduced an ordinance which may be considered the code of the medical profession in Canada. This ruling provided that no one should practice medicine without passing an examination. Those wishing to practise in a city were to be examined before the Physician of the King in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Jurisdiction. Those wishing to practise in the outlying districts were to pass an examination before the Physician of the King and a sub-delegate.

This ruling continued until 1788, when the British Parliament passed an act which provided that no one should practise physic and surgery within the Province of Quebec, or midwifery in the towns of Quebec and Montreal without a license. A license was to be obtained by passing an examination conducted by capable persons appointed by the Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the Province. This regulation did not subject those to an examination who had already taken a degree in any university, or had been commissioned as surgeons in the army or navy. "But the ordinance of 1788 had a radical fault. It placed the study and the practice of medicine absolutely in the hands of the executive power. It opened the door to partiality, to injustice and to administrative tyranny. The licenses were to be given by the Governor, and the examiners were to be nominated by the Governor also, which made them simply officers of the Government Executive. At a period when prejudice and narrow ideas in official spheres reigned, this domestication of the profession might cause serious rejection of justice.

"If one can believe the memoirs of a contemporary, this deplorable side of the ordinance soon became evident. The celebrated Pierre de Sales La-terrière, who had studied medicine for some time