

AN IMPORTANT JUDGMENT.

Some time ago, a patient received a burn in the Smith's Falls Hospital by a hot brick, which was placed in the bed to warm it, when the patient was taken from the operating room. When the case came up for trial before Mr. Justice Britton he dismissed the action. From this judgment the patient appealed. The appeal was heard before Chief Justice Falconbridge and Justices Kelly, Riddell and Latchford. These four judges came to a unanimous finding in favor of the patient and granted the appeal, awarding damages to the amount of \$900.

The court held that when a hospital furnishes beds, foods and nurses for patients it enters into a contract with them, and becomes liable for acts of negligence on the part of its nurses. This is a most important decision so far as hospitals are concerned. It will have the effect of compelling them to lay down rules for doctors and nurses so as to avoid, as far as possible, the occurrence of accidents for which the hospitals could be held liable.

The judgment will do good, as there has been much doubt in the past regarding the liability of these institutions in this matter. There can be no doubt now as this judgment in a most exhaustive manner sets forth the law. The hospitals will, no doubt, welcome the decision, for the simple reason that they know now their responsibilities, and can take proper measures to protect themselves.

An application for an appeal in this case has been refused, as it is a matter of express contract, and no matter of public interest is involved.

UNIVERSITY AND MEDICAL COUNCIL EXAMINATIONS.

This matter has been discussed fully before Mr. Justice Hodgins. The university authorities, taking the position that the students were carefully trained and put through the test of a severe examination, both written and practical. For this reason these students should not be subjected to further examinations.

On this important topic we have already expressed our views fully. We have taken the position that the objects of the Medical Council could be attained by the appointment of assessors, whose duty it would be to see that a proper standard is maintained by the university. Let us see how things are done elsewhere.

In Manitoba the university examines for the Council. In Quebec a graduate of McGill or Laval can enter upon practice without further examination. In Great Britain the General Medical Council only sets