

circumstances. It may be argued that this judgment will be only taken '*quantum valeat*,' and that to have appealed to the Legislature for power to prevent, in the future, any man treating disease, whether he called himself Allopath, Homœopath, Eclectic, Botanist, or by any other name, until he had shown before a proper tribunal that he had acquired a competent knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Pathology, Surgery, Obstetrics, &c., &c., was not an action meet for caustic criticism, even although it involved an amount of miscegenation, calculated to horrify a medical purist. There are, however, many in the field of medicine, as in politics, who have a terror of innovation, who would repudiate any other motto inscribed on their banners than *Stamus per antiquas vias*, or any other mould of fashion, or glass of form than that supplied by the time honoured British Colleges, notwithstanding that, to many of our colonially educated students, seeking their diplomas as an imprimatur of fitness, they have exhibited themselves, as somewhat illiberal step-mothers. To such medical *quid nunces* I would say a brief consideration of the necessity for a Bill, including all the sects, or the inevitable alternative, free trade in medicine, would tend to moderate their views of the questionable action of the medical reformers of the last few years. The first Medical Bill, 29th Viet., cap. 34, introduced by the late Dr. Parker, proved to be little better than a hybrid policy of compromise, failing to satisfy alike the extreme conservative and advanced liberal. In spirit, if not in letter, it provided (section 4) for a seat at the Council of one representative from the Homœopathic and Eclectic Boards or Colleges. The majority of the members of the Council, however, did not so interpret it, and at the May meeting an unwise policy of exclusion in my judgment, at least, was resolved upon, unwise because no possible obstructiveness could have resulted from the presence at the Council of these gentlemen, and their exclusion led to the continuance for another long period of a viciously lax licensing system, full fledged practitioners being turned out in numbers from some of the schools by a process nearly as expeditious as that occasionally practised by the primate of England, the simple formula for the degree being "by the Grace of God" and the Archbishop of Canterbury. These licensing Boards were recognized by Act of Parliament, and certainly required no less, if not more, than the universities and schools of medicine, the supervision of adjunct examiners, inspectors, or other checks contemplated by the Act, more particularly as there existed no teaching bodies for either Homœopaths or Eclectics in this country, and all the candidates for license, hailed from institutions in the United States. Shortly after this exclusion from the Council, a manifesto from these Boards appeared in the *Globe* newspaper (or it may have been an editorial, at the lapse of time I have