

Physicians and Surgeons of Upper Canada, with general powers to regulate all matters connected with the profession, fix a curriculum, grant licenses, and to regulate the sale of drugs. This Act, however, was disallowed.

In the meantime practitioners of homeopathy were making their appearance in the Province. The first to introduce that system into Upper Canada was the late Dr. J. J. Lancaster, of London, who commenced practising in 1846. Others followed in due time. Some of these, like the late Dr. D. Campbell, of Toronto, were British graduates, and therefore duly licensed. But others, such as Drs. Lancaster, Adams, Greenleaf, Bull and Hall, were graduates of foreign colleges, and could only receive license through the Provincial Board of Examiners. Owing to professional prejudices then existing, this was an impossibility, and, as a consequence, they were submitted to annoyance and persecution. But the number of their supporters among the laity increased rapidly, and in 1859 Parliament found a remedy for their grievances by passing a Bill which placed physicians of the homeopathic school in a position to become licensed and to stand on a legal equality with other medical men. The Act created a Board of Examiners in homeopathy and fixed the curriculum of studies. Two years later, in 1861, a similar Act was passed in the interest of practitioners of the eclectic system.

As the number of physicians in the Province increased with noticeable rapidity—a natural result of the competition of local colleges—it became apparent that in the interests of the profession, as well as of the public, some steps should be taken to secure a uniform standard of education, and one of higher character than that which was accepted as sufficient either by colleges or boards: and with this end in view a Bill was introduced in the Canadian Parliament in 1866 by Dr. Parker, M.P., to establish a Council of Education and Registration for the Province. This Council had power to fix the curriculum which should be enforced in the Canadian colleges, as well as to regulate the terms upon which graduates of foreign colleges could be licensed. But it soon became apparent that the Act could not be worked satisfactorily. The Board created by it declined to receive the representatives of the Homeopathic and Eclectic schools, as

according to their view, the law gave no authority for their representation. But it was evident that if there were to be three authorities in the profession—the Council and the Homeopathic and Eclectic Boards—one of the main objects sought in the proposed legislation, that of having a uniform standard of education, would be defeated. Meantime, Confederation having been accomplished—under which all matters of education came within the control of the Provinces—it was necessary for the Ontario Legislature to take some action. After considerable discussion and negotiation with all parties interested, a measure of compromise was effected and the Ontario Medical Act passed at the session of 1869. This Act incorporated the entire medical profession of the Province as the “College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario,” with a representative governing body, the Medical Council. Of this Council twelve were elected by the profession in the same manner as under the Parke Act; the various universities and medical schools were given one each, and Homeopaths and Eclectics five each.

It was not of course claimed that this proportionate representation in the Council was in accordance with the actual number of the respective classes. The Homeopaths did not claim that they constituted one-sixth of the profession in Ontario. But they did claim that if they were to give up their separate legal existence, and surrender all the rights they possessed under the Act of 1859, it should only be in consideration of having a representation in the Council large enough to afford some guarantee that their reasonable desires would be respected, and no injustice done their students. The Council was the result of a compromise, in which all parties made certain concessions in view of being accorded certain rights. The Homeopaths gave up their separate Board with all its powers, but only on the agreement that if the profession generally were to have twelve members in the Council, and the colleges one each, the Homeopaths should have not less than five. Any attempt to reduce the Homeopathist representation, either directly or relatively, would be a violation of the original terms of agreement. And the same principle holds with reference to the colleges, which surrendered their privileges as well.