

indeed, to find that a hostile feeling has arisen against the council through some clauses added to the Act in 1891, which feeling I would be glad to see removed. But while I am aware that a few faults are to be found, I am also aware that a great many virtues exist in the Act as it now stands, and it behooves the whole profession to see that no action is taken to impair its usefulness, detract from the dignity or lessen the influence of the Medical Council, which is the safeguard of medical education in Ontario, and which exerts an influence over the whole Dominion, for every province would suffer should the Council be done away with and a return to free trade in medicine follow, as it would most assuredly do, and if the Ontario Medical Council was abolished we would go back to the same position as we occupied prior to 1868. I cannot believe there is one who has the welfare of the medical profession at heart in this country who would wish to see us return to this condition, and for this reason I would ask those who are opposed to some clauses in our Act to pause and consider well before they do anything to embarrass the Council or vitiate the Act, and by so doing play into the hands of the charlatans both in and out of the profession. As it is we stand alone, looked upon by the general public as a close corporation and fitting prey for malpractice suits for large damages, who do nothing but increase the fees and legislate for our own pockets; and these views are encouraged by a certain class of men who have not the ability to obtain our license, or having obtained it, branch off in some disreputable way in order to make more money, and victimize the very public whom they profess to champion as against the regular practitioner. Fortunately for the profession and public we have a clause in the Act to enable the Council to purge the profession of such unworthy members, and to punish others who trade on the credulity of the public by fraudulent practices without being registered. Why it should be so I cannot tell, unless it is that people like to be humbugged. But it is a fact, nevertheless, that the sympathies of the majority of the laity are against the regular profession and in favour of quackery. Therefore I reiterate the statement that we must be careful how we interfere with the present law, by amending some minor clauses which may be objectionable, that we do not get