

generalizations, however elegant those deductions may appear; and in the case of ozone, very careful investigations, performed with the most rigid exactness, are required before we can admit such a great and interesting conclusion.

At present, then, we agree with Prof. Schonbein, that the great weight of evidence rests with the view that it is a deutoxide of hydrogen; which, although differing from the deutoxide of Thénard, has yet many striking points of resemblance; both bleach powerfully, both transform many protoxides to peroxides, (as, for example, protoxides of calcium and barium,) both transform sulphurous to sulphuric acids, and are decomposed by heat and many organic substances.

With regard to the late results of Marignac and de la Rive, M. Schonbein remarks: 1. Ozone has so strong an odor, that extremely small quantities are capable of affecting the olfactory nerves. 2. Quantities of ozone by far too minute to be ascertained by weight, still perceptibly color this test paste.

From this it follows that a quantity of aqueous vapor, too small to be sensible by our most delicate hygroscopic tests, may generate so much ozone as shall be sensible both to the smell and the iodine test.

We have thus endeavoured to give a brief abstract of the present state of our knowledge with regard to this subject, and would refer the reader who wishes to examine the subject more thoroughly, to the authorities already quoted. T. S. HUNT.

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## British American Journal.

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### AUGMENTATION OF LICENSING BOARDS FOR THE PROVINCE.

Three months have now elapsed since our remarks against an augmentation of licensing boards for the Province were submitted to the profession. At that period the Provincial Legislature was in session, and we have some good grounds for believing that our observations tended, in no small degree, to that result which ended in the arrest of the bill until the deliberate opinion of the profession at large was heard on a matter of such vital importance to their interests. With the single exception of an anonymous scribbler in one of the French Canadian newspapers, who, from *interested motives*, made a miserable attempt to pervert the plain meaning and spirit of our remarks to subserve his own ends, not one sentence condemnatory of the position which we assumed and upheld has been publicly expressed. Our remarks were elicited from a high sense of what we conceived to be the *true interests* of the profession, and we called upon that profession, whose best interests we conceived we were supporting, to sustain us in them. During the interval which has elapsed, what has that profession done in the matter? Is this question to be permitted to lie over until the ensuing session of Parliament, and action taken on it only when the bill again comes before the House? Or will the profession only awake from its lethargic slumber when it finds itself in a false position as to its future character, from the existence of a serious evil which a little timely prudence and careful foresight might have obviated? These are questions which each

member of the profession should himself individually answer; and, having done so, take such steps in the premises as the nature of the reflections which they may engender may clearly indicate.

From private letters which we have received from various quarters, we have reason to know that our remarks have met with a very general approval; and it is the more extraordinary, that this general concurrence in sentiment should have been followed by such complete apathy in acting, especially when we consider that although the measure be one of general importance, each *individual* member of the profession becomes individually affected. This indifference, for we believe it to be only apparent, may be explained by the often quoted, but still too frequently true, adage, that what is every body's business is usually nobody's; but we can hardly allow ourselves to think that, in a matter of such moment, some minds will not be found who will step forth and become prominent in the movement. There are few subjects of medical polity which could so well or deservedly receive attention at the hands of the medical societies of the Province. These are the parties who ought first to move in the matter, and it is to them that the profession at large should in the first instance turn for the first expression of opinion.

We regard the position of the profession in this Province, at the present moment, as one of ominous import, for its future weal or woe. It is at present in what may, with perfect accuracy, be termed, a transition state, and its future character and respectability most manifestly depend on its truthfulness to itself. A Bill, affecting its interests in every point of view, will undoubtedly become, at an early day, a legislative enactment, and it remains for the profession to have, or not to have, incorporated as a part of it, clauses which may render every educational restriction a cypher or a dead letter, in exact accordance with their own energy or inactivity in denouncing or permitting any such alteration, as was attempted in the one proposed at the last session.

*The Credit System in Medical Schools.*—The following, from the *Western Lancet*, with the observations of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, will, we think, be found to apply to other latitudes than those of New Orleans or Lexington. We therefore copy it:

"We are fully satisfied that an influence extremely detrimental to the profession has grown out of the custom of granting credit in medical schools. The object in adopting this course is to secure a large class, perhaps for the purpose of out-numbering a rival school; and the consequence is, that all who present themselves, wholly irrespective of merit or qualifications, are duly enrolled as medical students, and their names go out to the world, swelling the catalogue of some highly flourishing school.