

60 COLLEGE STREET,

TORONTO, *March 19th, 1895.*

*To the President, Council and Members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario :*

GENTLEMEN,—I beg leave to call your earnest attention to a bill to amend the Medical Act which has been introduced in the Ontario Legislature by Mr. Haycock, leader of the Patrons of Industry in that Assembly. I am induced to take this unusual course because of the extreme gravity of the situation, and because the introduction, by laymen, of an amending Act is entirely without precedent, and deserving of the closest scrutiny by the profession whose rights are seriously threatened. The Medical Act, which has been built up for the protection of the public, is threatened with destruction. The bill, if it should come into force, means practically free trade in medicine. It means a retrogression to a state compared with which the condition of the profession, prior to 1850, was order itself. It means that the competition and pressure of to-day will, if this bill becomes law, be redoubled. A calling which has at all times required much self sacrifice on the part of its practitioners, will cease to return an income for the time and labor expended.

Excessive competition is as little in the interest of the public as it is in that of the profession. Indeed, it may fairly be said that the Medical Acts have been framed not for the creation of a close corporation of the profession, but for the protection of the public from the extortions and overcharges of charlatans and empirics, and to guarantee to the people that the men who are licensed to practise medicine are competent to perform their work.

Those who are entitled to registration under this bill. (§) Subject to the provisions of section 24 of the Ontario Medical Act, every person who—

(a) Holds a diploma from any chartered university in the Dominion of Canada, or in Great Britain or Ireland, granting to such person a degree as bachelor of medicine or doctor of medicine, or any similar degree, and who

(b) Has attended the full course of lectures and complied with the requirements of the curriculum of any duly incorporated medical school or college in the Dominion of Canada, or of any such school or college in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, which has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and who