

from the register. The effect of this 1887 Act in short, was to give the medical profession entire control of themselves; it made the profession self-governing; they now had a right to say who should practice medicine, and what the standard of matriculation should be; they had the right to hold the requisite property necessary for the proper conducting of examinations; they had the right to collect a small annual fee, and now they have the further right to say to what extent, conduct that was unprofessional should be allowed, and at what stage the members of the profession may declare that these should belong to the profession no longer.

The next that we come to was the Act of 1891. This is one that has given rise to some considerable misunderstanding among the members of the profession. If we look at the Act itself we find it has a number of features. Previous to this time you will remember that any person who was a matriculant in Arts in any university in Her Majesty's dominions had a right to be admitted as a matriculant in Medicine. It was felt by some, that this was opening the door too wide; that in some parts of Her Majesty's dominions there might be universities whose matriculation standard might be hardly high enough; the Legislature concurred in the view, with certain restrictions; and the Council were given power to say just what their standard was to be, anywhere up to a degree in Arts. It was finally arranged that the standard should be the junior leaving examination which is exacted in the Arts Department in our Province, with the science option, for the purposes of medicine. Now there has been a feeling abroad that the Council have not been willing to accept Arts matriculation in Her Majesty's dominions all over; it is felt by some that it is intended by the Council to set up a standard which might shut out some honest, industrious, young men, and leave the profession open to those only who were born with a silver spoon in their mouths. I need scarcely say to you, gentlemen, that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario are not likely to take any such step as this. Under the heading of Appeals, we find a change is made. After the 1887 Act an appeal might be made to a High Court Judge; a change was made, so that an appeal might be had to a division of the High Court. There are also a couple of other little changes with reference to the taking of evidence, and to the assessment of costs.

Now we come to the more important particular, section 9, sub section 22. This was placed upon the Act for the purpose of enabling the Registrar to keep a correct register of all medical practitioners in the Province. If you look over that register you will find that there are some where about 2,600 names on it, and the most careful examination that we have been able to make, shows

that we have only 2,148 practitioners in the Province; so you will see that there is a great defect in the register. That comes about because we have not the right to drop off names; we do not become aware of those who may have left the country, or may have ceased practising from one cause or another; and this clause was put in so that after a letter was sent to a man and he does not answer within six months, we may have the right to assume that he has either left the country, or has gone out of practice, and his name can be dropped from the register. It was not in the 1874 Act, but we find this provision in the Act of 1891; and it was put there, not as a means of punishing the members of the medical profession, but rather with a view to perfecting the register, so that we might know who they were who had a right to practice, and who had not; and it also had the object of establishing a closer communication between the profession and the Council.

Then we turn to the section that has given rise to the greatest amount of difficulty, this is section 41 A. This section has several striking features. The first is that a medical man is required to take out an annual certificate; he is required to pay his annual dues before the 31st December, in each year; according to the Statute of 1874, that fee was due on the 1st January, so he is given twelve months in which to pay the sum of not less than \$1, nor more than \$2, in the discretion of the Council. But even then, should he not pay, he is to receive two months' notice. At the end of that time, if he doesn't think it worth his while to remit the amount, the assumption is that he does not wish to practice any longer, and his name is struck from the register; the matter was thus left optional with himself, either to cease to practice and not pay, or to practice and pay; but he is prevented from taking advantage of the payments made by other members, and to profit at their expense.

Now the idea has been promulgated by some, that when a member is dropped from the list, he can't get back again without some considerable difficulty; that is not correct; under clause 6 of the Act, provision is made that whenever he wishes to re-assume his position on the register, all he requires to do is to pay up his fees, and be reinstated on the register; he does not require to come before the Council, and has not to ask any favor of any person whatever; simply that he should pay up his fees to the profession, that he may be restored to his proper position.

There have been some gross charges made against the Council because of this provision. It has been said that the Council imposed this fee. Gentlemen, you all know the Council did not impose this fee; it was imposed by the statute in 1874; and every member of the profession who entered it since that date either knew, or ought to have