

a license, to be given by the Governor. On some rare occasions very amusing incidents arose out of these examinations. Let me relate a single instance. About the time I entered the profession there appeared before the examiners an applicant whose accent plainly revealed the place of his nativity. Possessed of somewhat engaging manners, a pleasing address and ready and fluent speech, his presence excited more than ordinary interest. After answering some general questions, one of the examiners asked him if he had ever had any experience in treating cases of what is popularly called "fallen palate." He replied in the affirmative, and said that he had never failed to correct it by making traction upon a lock of hair upon the crown of the head. Upon being further asked if it was necessary to tie a knot on this lock, he informed the examiners "that was a superstitious relic of the practice of the middle ages." As this was near the time when diphtheria began to prevail so extensively throughout the province another examiner asked him how he would treat that disease. This question he declined to answer, since he considered it was an interference with his "vested rights" to ask him to disclose a mode of treatment devised by himself. He failed to obtain a license, and as I was then practicing in the same county as that in which he resided, I remember how industriously he reported that "the Halifax doctors tried to find out from him his mode of treating diphtheria and he refused to gratify them."

I come now to consider the Medical Board, which is an organization provided for in the Act of 1872 for the purpose of executing its provisions. Dr. Campbell in the address to which I have already referred, speaking of this act and the year 1872, in which it was passed, truly says: "It is a year ever to be memorable in the history of medicine in this province, and rightly so, for the profession then

obtained self-government. The act with amendments gives the profession full control of all questions relating to medical education, registration and discipline." In 1856 an act was passed providing for registration which was not compulsory. But the act of 1872, which emanated from this society, required a matriculation examination before beginning medical study and registration after a four years' course in medicine, all of which are compulsory.

The preliminary examination is intended as a guarantee to the public that those who are looking forward to become physicians have sufficient education and general information to enable them to engage in the study of medicine profitably and to become qualified to have the lives of their suffering fellows entrusted to their care. Its reasonableness is so apparent that it is almost self-evident. Our act is largely a transcript of the British Medical Act, which has long had a similar clause.

On the continent of Europe a similar requirement exists; in the other provinces of our Dominion and in many parts of the United States it is now necessary to pass a matriculation examination. Before commencing an arts course or the study of law the student is obliged to undergo a matriculation examination. The subjects examined in under our act do not demand a high degree of scholarship, and with our present free schools and opportunities for acquiring knowledge it is not difficult to qualify for the examination. It is not as difficult as that for grade A in the public schools or quite equal to the present law examination. Graduates in arts from any regularly chartered college and their matriculants so far as they have met the standard of the Medical Board are exempted from this clause of the act. So also are holders of a grade A license.

In carrying out the act the Medical Board had to contend with many