

THE SANITARY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, OCT. 1ST, 1875.

No. 10.

THE MEDICAL ACT AND THE PUBLIC—WHO IS PROTECTED ?

There are those who would persuade the public that the present Medical Act was passed solely for the protection of the medical profession ; that its only effect is to give a medical monopoly ; that it is an injustice towards some one, we hardly know whom, a few knaves who would obtain an easy livelihood by gulling a credulous public ; that in fact the public does not need protection. It has been discovered that one medical man has said that no one outside of the profession is interested in the suppression of quackery, and apparently mistaking his meaning—for even this *one* did *not* say that only the “doctors are *benefitted* by it”—much is made of it by a leading organ which ought to know better than to uphold as it has ever done those who practice that illegitimate art. So far as we know, the profession has never desired or asked for protection, further than that derived in common with that entire public which ever naturally desires to be shielded as far as possible from knavery and imposition. On the other hand, among medical men, in medical meetings and in private medical circles, it is very generally believed and asserted that, upon the whole, quackery brings grists to the regular medical mill. The profession, in attempting to shield the masses from the effects of quackism, no doubt places itself in a position in which suspicious, distrustful people would naturally attribute selfish motives. But are the motives selfish which prompt hundreds and thousands of the most enlightened phy-