

standard was purposely kept low, because it meant a larger attendance and greater profits.

There is a medical school in the State of New York which furnishes a good example of an institution conducted on business principles. It is in the neighborhood of twenty years since the writer, attracted by the great reputation of this big concern, attended its lectures for a few weeks. He met, as fellow students, the queerest motley crowd of uncouth, uncultured, and ignorant creatures it was ever his misfortune to be associated with. To matriculate there meant to pay five dollars. The student was supposed to be able to read and write, but not to spell; this latter was an accomplishment so rare as to be considered rather a vulgar one.

This was one of the two-year mills, so common in those days, scarcely forgotten yet. It was run on a plan as simple as it was easy. Some hundreds of students listened to two courses of didactic lectures; they were never allowed inside a hospital ward; they were not asked to do laboratory work; they were ordered to do some dissecting, and in this their celerity was unexcelled, as they frequently completed the dissection of an extremity in one evening.

The legislation before referred to is, however, bringing about a new order of things. Licensing boards are being formed with a rapidity that is very satisfactory. Most of our profession will probably be surprised to learn that such boards now control medical practice in twenty-one States in the Union, as we learn from the *Medical News*. We are pleased to learn that that indomitable fighter against quackery, humbug, and ignorance, Dr. Rauch, of the Illinois Board of Health, has called a meeting of representatives from the various licensing boards, to be held at Washington on May 6th. Concerted action on the part of these bodies will do much for higher medical education in the United States.

#### INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

A formal notice has been given of a very important motion to be introduced by Dr. Chas. A. L. Reed, of Cincinnati, at the coming meeting of the American Medical Association in Washington. We understand the proposed resolutions will be as follows:

"1. That the American Medical Association extend an invitation to the profession of the republics and colonies of the western continent to assemble in this country in an International American Medical Congress.

"2. That the Committee on Nominations be instructed to nominate one member for each State and Territory, and one each for the Army, Navy and Marine Hospital Service, to constitute a committee with power to act, to which will be referred time, place and permanent organization of the proposed Congress."

A Congress such as this, organized in the manner indicated, ought to prove a success in the highest sense of the word. The American Medical Association, which passed through serious trials from internal dissensions a few years ago, is now becoming very strong. Its prospects were never so bright as at the present time. It will probably soon become for the United States all that the British Medical Association is for Great Britain. Some have thought this could never be on account of the magnificent distances between the different sections of the Union. The comforts and conveniences of modern travelling have, however, almost annihilated such difficulties, as the large attendance at recent meetings proves beyond doubt.

We think Dr. Reed's idea is a very happy one, and hope it will be well received by the Association.

#### ANTISEPTIC SURGERY.

The discussion arising out of Dr. White's address in the Post-Graduate Course of the University of Toronto has not yet ceased. We publish in this issue another letter on the subject from Mr. Lawson Tait, which appeared in the *British Medical Journal*. Mr. Tait dislikes to be ignored by the London lights, and is too fond of controversy himself to ignore any one who criticises adversely his opinions or methods.

NOTE—Since the above was put in type we have received from Dr. White a copy of the reply he has sent to the *British Medical Journal*. It will be found in this issue.

#### THE CLOSE SHAVE.

Our barbers, so skilled in surgery in former times, have not yet lost their cunning. One of