

OPTOMETRICAL CONVENTION.

A short time ago the medical profession of Canada was entertained by the report of the Optometrical Convention that was held in Toronto. There were many "Doctors" at the convention from all over the United States and Canada. We have no means of informing our readers from what universities these optometrists secured the degrees that entitle them to assume the title of "doctor." The probabilities are that these degrees are from some self constituted body, or even self assumed, as we remember a barber in Toronto a few years ago doing when he dubbed himself doctor of the universal art.

But these optometrists a short time ago tried for legal recognition, and may do so again. It is necessary that the medical profession should be on the alert in this matter. There is absolutely no justification for the recognition of opticians as a section of the medical profession. Examination of eyes for refraction is only a very limited subsection of a section of medical practice.

It would be bad enough to graduate men as ophthalmologists alone. This would open the door to doctors of otology, cardiology, gastrology, renology, etc. But to still further subdivide into doctors of refraction, doctors of keratology, doctors of retinology, is going to the very depths of folly, and would surpass even a mockery to find words with which to lampoon the farce.

THE ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The recent meeting of this body was in many ways the most important in its history.

The universities now conduct the primary and intermediate examinations, and the medical council the final examinations. This has been our contention for some time. We held that it was a waste of both time and energy to examine a student of the university and immediately afterwards examine him for the Council on the same subjects. This view has prevailed.

Then we have long contended that the medical council was too large a body. Steps were taken looking towards a reduction. The direct representatives of the profession may be reduced from 18 to 9. Those from universities and colleges from 8 to 3, and the homœopathic representatives from 5 to 3. This would reduce the council from its present unwieldy and expensive size of 31 to a body of 14. It would also cut out those from defunct medical colleges.