

them to rise above provincialism; and while all this was going on he never lost an opportunity of bringing his scheme to the notice of the profession at large. It is gratifying to us all to know that his work has been appreciated and that on its consummation in November, 1912, he was unanimously elected the first President of the Medical Council of Canada by acclamation.

I most sincerely wish that he could have been here to-day to enter into the spirit of this meeting and to take my place on this platform by addressing you, but it was not possible. He begs me, however, to assure you that he is thinking of this meeting to-day and that while he can only send his benediction, his hopes and wishes are for the highest fruition of your endeavours, and that they will be crowned with a result that will stand for what is highest and best.

The history of the passing of the Canada Medical Act can now be told without trespassing too long on your patience. I may say that the pivotal points of the Act were few. Certain great principles had to be kept in mind, and possibly if I take these up seriatim I can the better elucidate what has happened.

I have told you that the Provinces of our Dominion had certain charter rights specifically granted to them, and it was provided that as new Provinces were carved out and given a constitution by the Canadian Parliament, at Ottawa, these charter rights were to be automatically extended. One of these was education, and so it came about that each Province has from time to time passed certain laws regarding the admission of men to the license to practise medicine. Certain bodies, outside what we know as the regular profession, had also secured rights for their adherents.