

Prince Edward Island.

The profession in Prince Edward Island have been able to secure medical legislation on pretty near the same lines as Ontario and British Columbia in 1890. Subsequently, in 1892, the law was modified, giving the Council powers of examination, and power to deal with immoral and "infamous or disgraceful conduct in a professional respect." Under the Act of 1890 we had considerable trouble with a graduate of McGill University, whose conduct, to say the least, was anything but professional. The atmosphere became too warm for him, so he fled into Uncle Sam's dominions. Another, a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, whose conduct at Ottawa and elsewhere was suspicious, applied for registration, but failed to appear, and saved us further trouble. So far, the medical law has been a great barrier to quackery in this Province, and we hope the profession will maintain their position by aiming at a higher professional status for its members.

We need our present law amended, doing away with the one-year curriculum of studies which is permitted with a practitioner of medicine, as it is generally admitted to be of very little use, and not at all equivalent to a course of lectures and laboratory work in a recognized school. We need power to make by-laws to suit the requirements of the profession from time to time, for the regulation of all matters pertaining to education, curriculum of studies, fees, registration, examination, without having to submit the same for the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor and Council. This submission to the Governor and Council causes great delay and inconvenience, and besides is of no earthly use whatever. In Ontario, I believe the privilege is now granted to the profession to pass and make their own by-laws, without having to submit the same to the Governor and Council for approval.

If the profession in Ontario is worthy of this privilege, I fail to see why the profession in the other provinces of the Dominion should not enjoy the same. The advantages would be great, and save considerable delay and annoyance. At the last meeting of the Maritime Medical Association, held in Charlottetown, a resolution was passed

empowering the various Councils of the three provinces to have uniformity of laws and curriculum of studies, looking to the question of Maritime reciprocity of registration at least, and with that end in view, we expect to hear of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia applying for further legislation this coming winter. It would be a grand thing to have raised the profession throughout the Dominion to a common level or standard so that reciprocity could be readily obtained for any man who might desire to change his residence from one province to the other. The churches have no difficulty in transferring their members from one place to another; the lawyers have no difficulty, and why should the medical profession? It appears to me the difficulty will be solved quicker when every province will cease to recognize the degrees granted by the colleges as a legal right to practise, and adopt the common-sense principle of self-protection, that a State Board should constitute the sole authority for legalizing the practice of the medical profession.

The quacks find these Boards a great barrier to their progress, and that of itself should teach the members of the regular profession the necessity of upholding the laws and paying their annual dues without a murmur. It is a lamentable fact that there are a great many who grudge the small fee of two or three dollars a year to carry out the provisions of the law, which is really for the protection directly from quacks and quackery. But as guardians of the people, the responsibility is thrown upon the profession, who are supposed to understand better than others the great injury which the quacks inflict upon the common people. Through time, the Legislature may acknowledge this, and place a sum in their appropriation lists for the administering of the law. It remains for the profession here and elsewhere to be true to itself; stand firmly and unitedly; cease bickering and fault-finding; work for the common good, each realizing that the profession is benefited by their labours. Then they will pay their dues like men who are honourable in principle and practice. The free-trade and go-as-you-please idea does not find much shelter or encouragement amongst lawyers and clericals, so a word to the wise ought to be sufficient.

The Medical Society of Prince Edward Island,