

assurance having been tendered, that if withdrawn, they would propose at the ensuing session of the Legislature a Bill of their own, affecting their own interests exclusively. In sanctioning the omission of the Apothecary clauses the Profession acted then, in the most perfect good faith. Let us now see the result. Year after year elapsed, and no move was made, on the part of the Apothecaries, to secure their promised measure. Tired of their inaction, the Profession again moved in the matter; and two if not three Bills, to enact a professional qualification on the part of the Apothecaries, and to regulate the sale of poisons, a practice far too freely and incautiously pursued by many of this class, were in successive Parliaments introduced, and as often frustrated, by the determined opposition of the Apothecaries themselves. The good faith of such a procedure, especially when coupled with their pledge, can be thus duly estimated. We believe, however, that the opposition was chiefly manifested by the Apothecaries of Quebec. We know none in this town, who are opposed to the principle of such a measure.

If this question were one, in which the Medical Profession only felt an interest, we could then easily divine many reasons for opposition to the measure, on the part of those affected by it. But when we consider, that however desirous the Profession may be, to have those thoroughly educated, who are to dispense their prescriptions, however important for them it may be to be assured, that the medicines employed are genuine, a point on which their own reputation is frequently dependent, however desirous the apothecaries themselves may be, to have those who are to succeed them, well educated men, it is the public at large who should take the greatest interest in the measure, as it is their interests which are the most affected, both directly and indirectly. It is their interest, for example, to feel assured, that the apothecaries who compound their prescriptions, know the drugs which they are employing, both in their nature, their properties and their doses; that their chemical knowledge is adequate to all the emergencies to which it is applicable; that their character should be a guarantee of the purity and genuineness of the materials which they are using; and that the sale of poisons should be restricted, or if made, then under such regulations, that if purchased to be used with the intention of committing murder, there shall exist such a clue to the identity of the purchaser, as will defy his escape from detection and punishment. Are these not objects which deeply involve the best interests of the public, and if so, is not the opposition, exhibited to the Bill by the Apothecaries, one which brings them into collision with the best interests of the community, which it should be their utmost endeavour to sustain and promote.

It may possibly be that the opposition, which has rendered futile the preceding attempts at legislation, has originated from the presence in the Bill of some obnoxious clauses. This, however, is by no means a justification of the opposition to the whole Bill. We feel persuaded, that the Profession is not desirous of enforcing any especially obnoxious measure upon the Apothecaries, and we have no doubt, that all the objectionable features could be removed by a conference in which the views, wishes, and feelings of the two parties might be expressed. The interests of the Profession are too closely interwoven with those of the Apothecaries to permit of a serious antagonism. But the time has come, when for the sake of all the parties concerned, some Legislative enactment is