

Universities receive their pupils, is liable to serious abuses, and that it should be reformed in such a manner as to allow a body representing the whole profession, to exercise the power of subjecting professional aspirants to a thorough examination. And further, many are of opinion that the *medical* examinations should be conducted before a board composed partly of the profession at large, and partly of the professors at the Universities. Rivalry amongst teaching bodies, as a means of elevating the standard of medical education, would not be destroyed by this system; on the contrary it would excite in professors a spirit of emulation which would manifest itself by efforts to draw from their pupils proofs of the superiority of their teaching. For that final examination a knowledge of certain branches that are not yet included in the course of instruction prescribed by law, should be required, as Hygiene, Histology, Pathology, Practical Chemistry, Practical Medicine, and an extension of the time devoted to some others, especially Clinics. Most of the Universities have shown their appreciation of the utility of this course, inasmuch as they have adopted it of their own accord.

During the twenty-five years since the founding of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada, the circumstances of the country have undergone so great a change, that this institution no longer answers the wants of the profession and the public. The indifference of the profession in regard to it is nearly complete.

For a long time back hardly any person would become members of a body without power or life, and it is very probable that in a short time it will become entirely defunct for want of knowledge to adopt such measures as would quicken it with a renewed vitality. It needs to be reorganized on a broader basis, and so constituted that every physician shall be compelled, both by his own interests, and by the law, to become a party in it; and to it, then, should be given the control of both the classical and medical education of every one that aspires to become a member of our noble profession. Let the Province be divided into districts, and let each district elect one representative; let the Universities on their part furnish a certain number; and we should then have a body full of life and vigor, receiving at each election sufficient new material to re-animate and re-juvenate it.

Let this body possess, amongst its other powers,

that of suspending or annulling the license of such of its members as dishonor the profession in a flagrant and public manner, that we may no longer be disgraced by having to acknowledge as conferrers those who degrade themselves by culpable practices, or by the most bare-faced charlatanism; and to prevent an abuse of these powers, let their action, if deemed necessary, be guarded by making it requisite to obtain the approbation of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to ratify it, in cases of this kind.

We shall not at present pursue the consideration of this matter any further, although the foregoing suggestions are worthy of being more fully developed; we will observe, however, that such measures as we have pointed out, would tend to strengthen the guarantees given to the public by the profession, and would place us in a position to demand with increased authority, that society should be more effectually protected from the imposters who take advantage of public credulity.

The success of quackery depends upon the credulity of mankind, and whence arises this but from ignorance? That people may be in a position to judge of real knowledge, and appreciate merit, they must receive a certain amount of instruction, for without this, they are left a prey to all who from mercenary or other motives, seek to allure and deceive them. Of a subject of such vital importance to all as a knowledge of the mechanism and functions of the human body, and of the proper methods of maintaining their healthy action and remedying their derangements, the majority of persons are prodigiously ignorant.

It cannot be expected that every person should study thoroughly these several subjects; but it cannot be denied that it would be exceedingly beneficial for the great majority, at least, did they possess correct opinions to guide them in their efforts to preserve health of both body and mind. Then why not introduce into our schools, and especially into our colleges, an elementary work containing such principles of human physiology and hygiene as are necessary to be known by everybody? Is not this study one of the most important in ameliorating the condition of men, and in securing his well being? And may we not go a step further, and express what we firmly believe, that if people were instructed in various branches of medical knowledge we should see them less fre-