

cunning impose upon our own credulous inhabitants, taking away with them their hard earned dollars in lieu of medicines, as they term them, most of which grow at their own doors, but which have been metamorphosed and palmed off on them with some grand technical term which the venders themselves do not know the English of. Of course *we* cannot be expected to prosecute such impostors; our philanthropy would be at once put down to jealousy, and the public would of course side with the weaker party. Why should not the county attorney have the power given him to look into the matter, and see that every practitioner has his license, and have defaulters punished; such would be the just protection we claim. These are the men who are crowding into the profession every year without education or anything else; who bring such discredit upon it. I have frequently heard people remark, "I have *doctored* with so and so, naming one of the class of constellations above alluded to, and he has not helped me any, but drenched me with medicines and run up a bill; I shall try some other plan of treatment." They do so in their ignorance, and find they have steered clear of Scilla to be swamped in Charybdis. It is indeed fearful to think that the lives of a large community should be thus pandered with. What can be the feelings of those men while standing by the bedside of a dying fellow-creature, when they see the human soul taking wings amid the anguish of weeping friends and bereaved children. They cannot but feel that a valuable life has been sacrificed to their own injudiciousness, if not worse.

It is a crying shame to a civilized country like Canada that such abominations should be encouraged by those in power. We are fast becoming like our neighbours as far as charlatanism is concerned. Our papers teem with quack advertisements and endless nostrums, most of them the grossest forgeries, as our medical journals can and have proved. The stomachs of our population are fast becoming perfect cesspools from the filth which is daily being poured into them by those, whose wrought-on minds have led them to believe themselves to be the victims of one or another of the diseases, mentioned in the eagerly perused advertisements, an agreeable, though rather morbid mental recreation which in the present day many seem to indulge in.

We profess in our loyalty to follow in the steps of the mother country and to emulate her noble institutions. Then why not let us have an incorporated college of surgeons like her, and let all students pass their examinations at it, and receive from it alone their diplomas of course, taking what other degrees they see fit from other colleges.

If the authorities of University College, Toronto, or McGill College, Montreal, were to call together the licentiates from various parts of the country, or delegates from the various districts, some method of organization might be determined upon, and our case be prepared for laying before the House when next it meets. It is high time something was done for the protection of the rights belonging to our noble and almost divine profession. Of course many of the senior members of it may not feel the same amount of enthusiasm in the cause, as some of us who are but commencing to climb the tree, but still it is to be hoped that they will come forward and assist us all they can in our honest endeavours.

I beg to remain, Sir, yours obediently,

Toronto, June 10, 1863.

LICENTIAATE.