

medical students the old apprentice system was still largely in vogue.

Reflection on the position of the profession in our own country, our medical laws and institutions, at a corresponding period in national development, is indeed reassuring, and must impress us with a deep sense of the gratitude we owe those worthy pioneers, the military surgeons, who at the beginning of the last century were laying the foundations of the profession in this province. We, of the present generation, are reaping the advantages of the high ideals by which they were actuated, and of the strenuous efforts they put forth to establish and maintain in a struggling colony the honorable character and traditions of the profession of the motherland. From the view-point of the present it would be not only instructive but inspiring to look back and consider for a moment what manner of men they were, these pioneer surgeons, the difficulties they encountered, what they accomplished, and to trace their influence on the evolution of the profession in the province; but the time at my disposal will permit of only a brief reference to them. They were men socially of high rank; and certainly well abreast with the advancement of medicine at that time, thoroughly trained in the schools of London, Edinburgh and Dublin at a period made brilliant by the labors of the Hunters, Edward Jenner, Percival Pott, Benjamin Bell, John Bell and other great teachers. They possessed a wide experience, not only of medicine, but of men and affairs, gained by active service during the wars of that period. The influence of these early military surgeons had been indelibly stamped on the medical profession of the province, and has been an important factor in giving character to our clinical teaching and practice. To their efforts we are indebted for the first efficient legislative control of the practice of medicine, obtained by the Medical Act of 1818, under which the Medical Board of Upper Canada was created. From that time until its last meeting in 1865, immediately before the formation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, this Medical Board guarded the entrance to the profession and practically controlled the medical affairs of the province. Up until 1830 the influence of the military element in relation to the medical profession was practically supreme and undisputed. In the very nature of things they were in close touch and sympathy, and evidently possessed the confidence of the Governors and the Executive, which, in the period preceding the Mackenzie Rebellion, administered as they deemed best the affairs of the province. This intimate association of the founders of our profession with the