

# THE CANADA LANCET:

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Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.

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## HOMŒOPATHIC LICENSING BOARD, WITH UNIVERSITY POWERS.

It has always been the dexterous policy of Dr. Campbell to obtain the ear of persons of official rank in the Government without any regard to the mutations of politics, and in this we recognize the versatility of his powers of *savoir faire* and *savoir dire*. The public as a rule take little interest in the dogmas of school men, and when applied to for signatures to petitions against alleged grievances, unthinkingly support with their names an application for unfair class legislation. These petitions industriously circulated, and for the reason above stated numerous signed, help to impress on the members of the Legislature the idea of a grievance, which as we think in our "Extra" we have sufficiently demonstrated to have no existence. This erroneous opinion of disability is essentially serviceable to the Homœopathic branch of the Medical Council at the present time, when we are endeavouring to procure from the Legislature amended medical legislation, for the interests alike of the public and the profession. Whether this denominational influence, or supposed influence will, prevail against the appeal of the great body of practitioners to the Legislature is a question, to one side of which we are too deeply pledged to give an unbiased opinion, but of this we are certain, that should it prevail all hope of elevating the standard of medical education, general as well as professional, is at an end, the era of free trade inaugurated, and no other way left us for drawing a line between the educated physician and the blatant ignorant quack, but by extensively organizing Medical Associations; the

qualifications for membership differing "toto cœlo" from the royal and easy road proposed by Dr. Campbell for enabling a man to affix M.D. to his signature. We presume the Doctor in his present iconoclastic mood will decide upon the vernacular rather than the Latin for the wording of his *degrées* (save the mark) and thus screen the possessors from the inconvenience of being asked to translate them. He has surely forgotten the general purport of the oath required by his *Alma Mater* at the time of his graduation, otherwise he could hardly reconcile to his conscience an attempt to bring University degrees into contempt by ranging them alongside such abominable counterfeits. We cannot for a moment suppose that the various universities of the Dominion will quietly and without an effort submit to this high-handed attempt of wresting from them their hitherto exclusive powers of conferring well-merited degrees—this insolent desire for underrating the value of classical acquirements to a physician. But even if they did yield to popular clamor and consider they were compelled to make a sacrifice of principle in sinking their graduates to a level (at least in the estimation of the unthinking) with the future M.D's. of this proposed Homœopathic Licensing Board, we may rest assured that medicine will not be without its share of scholars so long as it holds out a sufficient inducement to men of ability to enter the profession.

The work of reconstruction entered into some years past by the Medical Council was a great one, and the difficulties not trifling, the measure of success that we had attained, authorized the hope that consolidation would eventually be obtained, that if we were yet a long way off the zenith we had safely passed the nadir, that the wranglings of school-men would in time give place to those broad and comprehensive views on the subject that should alone influence men of a liberal profession, viz., increased diligence in the study, and advancement of the various departments of medicine. We are now, it would seem, to return to Hobbes description of the primitive condition of man: "A congeries of atoms, owning no authority, and engaged in perpetual war," as of course if the proposed Bill obtains the sanction of the Legislature, the various Universities and Colleges will resume their licensing power, the Council will die a natural death, and with it all chance of establishing a high and uniform