

The Canada Lancet

VOL. XLIX.

TORONTO, MAY, 1916

No. 9

EDITORIAL

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

This Act will come before the medical profession at an early date for careful consideration. In certain quarters it has already received a considerable amount of attention. In its present form it is in a most unsatisfactory form so far as the medical profession is concerned.

When a physician or surgeon is called in to attend a workman under this Act, there is no official recognition of his services. If he is ever to be paid it must be by the injured person himself. This puts the onus of collection on the doctor. The Act should not be permitted to remain in this form; and it is very largely a matter for the medical profession of the Province of Ontario to say whether it shall continue for the future in its present form.

There should be some guarantee of the fees to the doctor who gives the attendance. Some reasonable scale of fees could be agreed upon; and in any instance where it might be thought that the fees submitted for payment in any case were excessive, the compensation board might have the power to tax the same. All this, however, is only matters of detail.

After a year's trial of the Act there was a substantial balance from the revenue obtained through the payments of employers of labor. This balance is due to the fact that the doctors who have made the Act a possibility received no remuneration for the splendid services they rendered to the injured. These services cost the commission administering the fund nothing, and they materially shortened the time of invalidism of the workmen.

When some members of the medical profession took this matter up a short time ago, they were given to understand that no legislation would be introduced during the session that has just closed; but to have their case in proper shape for the session of next year. Now, this is a