

governing power, and when we consider the diversity of interest to be guarded, the progress is perhaps as rapid as could be expected. In 1865, when the first Act establishing the Council was passed, there was a large number of medical men in practice with a great variety of qualifications; and some with no qualifications other than what they had acquired by time; there were several teaching schools and universities; there were three legalized branches of the profession, Eclectic, Homeopathic, and Regular, each having peculiar rights to be guarded. When you consider the Legislature is not made up of medical men, or even of professional men, I think you will agree with me, that the profession is to be congratulated on the progress made—but while this is true, there is yet danger of retrogressive steps being taken.

There are some among the profession who are dissatisfied with the action of the Council. They are principally of those who have given their own representative body the cold shoulder for these many years, and it is only now, when they can no longer secure advantages for which others have paid, that they take a lively interest in the profession and its representative body. While this is regrettable, it is still more to be regretted that they make attempts to secure alterations in the medical legislation of the Province, without the sanction of the profession obtained through their representative body. Such attempts are against our best interests. They are ignoring the fact that we have a representative body, and that changes in our constitution should be sought in the constitutional way. Changes obtained in any other way will render the professional status insecure from year to year, and subject it to the whims and fancies of those seeking notoriety, or those who think that, through their influence in the Legislature, they can become the rulers of the profession. We need scarcely say that thoughtful medical men will not wish to put their profession in that position, but prefer that radical changes in the organization shall emanate from the profession in some organized form. The consensus of opinion may then be secured even should all details not harmonize with our individual wishes. The last session of the Legislature was fruitful in attempts of this kind. There were no less than three Bills introduced to amend the Ontario Medical Act.

The first is, "an Act to amend the Ontario Medical Act." In this form, section 45 is amended by adding as follows: "But the application of a plaster or plasters, with the object of healing or removing cancers or other growths, shall not be considered as practising medicine or surgery within the meaning of this Act." Now, if the Legislature can be induced by unauthorized parties to amend the Medical Act, then the members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons have no guarantee as to what their position will be. The only guarantee the profession can have is to insist that legislation shall emanate in some way from their representative body, and, if not satisfied with their representatives, change them in the regular way. There will be a difference of opinion as to what is best. There must be compromises by individuals; there must be compromises by members of the Council. Each cannot secure his particular views in every detail, but so long as the legislation secured by the Council is in the right direction, moving forward in the interests of the public and the profession, we should be satisfied. The public's security and ours is in obtaining legislation through our representative body, and we should be prepared to resist all legislation introduced from any other source.

The next Bill is to repeal section 27 of the Ontario Medical Act. It is introduced not by medical men, as, in fact, neither was the other. It is therefore open to the same objections. To repeal this section means to strike off the fee that was found necessary and was imposed in 1874. The Council had the right, in making their estimates, to rely on this income from the profession; and now when they have entered into obligations, this Bill comes forward, not from the medical men, but from outsiders, to take away the fund upon which they have been relying to provide for their annual expenditure. It is equally objectionable with the other, as it did not emanate from the proper source.

We come now to the third Bill. This unfortunately was introduced by a medical man. I say unfortunately, because it is a great misfortune when we have medical men in the Legislature, who should be the guardians of the professional interests, yet are swerved from their plain duty, and who allow themselves to be used to make attacks