

aim of securing a uniform high standard of professional attainment in the future, and thus advancing our noble art, which above all things tends to promote the happiness by administering to the health and physical well-being of mankind. This action, the result of the firm conviction of a large body of practitioners in Ontario, that a speedy check to the indiscriminate system of licensing was imperatively called for, and for the interest of the profession and general public, was made the occasion of severe condemnatory remarks by the editor of the *London Lancet*, in the November number for 1869, and those members of the Council returned on a distinct promise to oppose the working of the Bill, were made the subject of calumny, whilst their brethren, who had been instructed by their constituents, to give the Bill a fair trial, were held up to unmerited obloquy. "Quot homines, tot sententia." Our censor, however, did not believe in the latitudinarianism the quotation implies, but would have all submit to a Procrustean bed, and respond to one Shibboleth alone in medicine, a consummation devoutly to be wished for certainly, but not likely to be realized on this continent. Here education is not confined to a class privileged by the gifts of fortune, but under our admirable Common School, Grammar School, and University system, is the inalienable birthright of all. The evil, it is an evil, of a difference of opinion in medicine, as in religion and politics, has always existed, and will continue to exist, it admits of no cure, even the wildest visionary can scarcely hope to bring all members of our profession to a uniform standard of belief. If history has taught us anything, it has taught us that the thinking portion of the community will take the liberty of forming their own opinions. Therefore to be deficient in tolerance is at least useless, intolerance hardens what we may conceive to be error, and provokes recrimination, but it does not enlighten those whom we wish to convince, nor does it extend doctrines which appear to us clear and indisputable.

Let us glance briefly over the history of medicine from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries only, leaving unconsidered the various systems of therapeutics from Hippocrates downwards, and how numerous do we find the theories that have in their turn dominated, without obtaining lasting belief. Renouard, in his "*Histoire de Médecine*," remarks: "Theory is an arena of interminable discussions, a real tower of Babel, it is the apple of discord among physicians. Who can flatter himself to hold the equal balance among so many diverse, or contrary opinions, to distribute equally praise and blame, to mark the precise limit in each, where truth ends and error commences." Before sitting in judgment on the constitution of our Council, it would have been more courteous in the editor to have satisfied himself that he was not discoursing on imperfect knowledge of