

# THE MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXVIII.

MAY, 1899.

No. 5.

## Original Communications.

ABSTRACT OF AN ADDRESS ON A PROPOSED SCHEME FOR  
A DOMINION MEDICAL COUNCIL.\*

BY

T. G. RODDICK, M.D., LL.D., M.P.

Professor of Surgery, McGill University.

As you are all aware, by the British North America Act, the subject of education was placed within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislatures. Section 93 of that Act reads: "In and for each Province the Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to Education, subject and according to the following Provisions." These provisions do not, however, interest us, as they have reference entirely to common schools. This fact would give one the impression that professional education was not meant to be included in the section, or that it was overlooked or forgotten by those who were responsible for the framing of the act.

The Confederation of the Provinces had scarcely been consummated when our profession realized that a mistake had been made and that the multiplicity of medical boards throughout the Dominion would lead to great abuses and untold complications. Therefore we find the Canadian Medical Association at one of its earliest meetings, in 1869, suggesting a Dominion Medical Bill, called "The Medical Act of the Dominion of Canada." This bill, most comprehensive, was presented before the Association at the third meeting, in the city of Ottawa; and after a long and somewhat acrimonious debate, was finally abandoned; and so far as I know, was never brought up for reconsideration. Doubtless the fact that the profession in Ontario had, in the meantime, put into operation their own medical act, militated against the greater scheme. I am inclined to think that other reasons for its early demise are to be found in the attempt made, practically to expunge the provincial boards, and also to give a preponderating influence to the universities.

\* Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, March 20, 1898.