

shall be entitled to recover any charge in any court of law, &c., &c., nor be entitled to any of the rights and privileges conferred by the provisions of this act, unless he shall prove that he is registered under this act and has paid his annual contribution to the college."

Now, Sir, as an old practitioner who has paid his ten dollars to the college for enregistration, I take exception to the wording of the above clause, as by it I am deprived of a vested right, and which I am sure was never intended by the Legislature, and which I think would not hold in a court of justice. No law can be retroactive.

Owing to the near approach of the tri-annual meeting of the college, at which I intend to be present, I should like your opinion on this point in the forth-coming number of your journal, as it is a very important matter.

Yours M. D.

[The question asked by our correspondent is a very important one, and partaking, as it largely does, of a legal character, we cannot be expected to give an answer which will be accepted as thoroughly satisfactory. Our correspondent objects to the clause of the new act, compelling registration, and the payment of an annual subscription of two dollars, upon the ground that he acquired certain rights under the old act which cannot be taken away from him. We are inclined to doubt his reasoning; the rights he obtained existed until by a new act he was deprived of them, and, to our mind, the power that gave those rights has the power to abolish them if it in its wisdom see fit to do so. There can be no question as to the fact that in matters not medical, the Legislature has more than once interfered with what may be termed vested rights. Witness, the cadastre, where mortgagees to save their claim on the *property* were compelled to re-register their deed. The importance of having the profession of the Province of Quebec really and properly registered, for previous registration has been a farce, is so great, and the fee for its performance so insignificant, that we hope our correspondent will not offer any further opposition. Let him register himself, encourage his medical friends to do the same, and his solace can be that even if the Legislature did take away "*his vested rights*," he was able to purchase them back for the small sum of three dollars. ED. RECORD.]

To the Editor of the Medical Record.

SIR,—I am well advanced in years and have lived in harmony and friendship with my confrères

but regret to find from what I have heard that the younger members of the profession have thought it necessary to obtain a new act, and do away with the old act of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada, which worked well for near thirty years.

This new act contains a clause which is intended to deprive me and others situated as I am of inherent and vested rights, rights obtained in virtue of possessing the Governor Generals' License to practice, granted on the recommendation of the then authorized medical board of examiners.

Notwithstanding clause xxii. of this new bill, I maintain I cannot be deprived of the rights and privileges I have had in, virtue of my license, and can sue for any claim I may have for professional services, and give certificates which will be valid and must be received by all courts of justice, in spite of this clause. As this question is an all important one to every British subject I should like your opinion on it.

AN OLD PRACTITIONER.

[We think the answer which we have given to the correspondent signing M.D., will answer equally well for "An Old Practitioner." We recommend him to register, and in his old age help his junior brethren to work the present act, which, though very far from perfect, is yet an improvement on the one which he says, "worked well for nearly thirty years."

ED. RECORD.]

Progress of Medical Science.

GALLOPING CONSUMPTION: ITS CURABILITY.

Very interesting it is to note how, from time to time, one or another of our practical physicians are induced to record the recovery of cases thought almost hopeless, and now and then to speak of cure. Dr. McCall Anderson has begun some lectures in the *Lancet* on such cases. He opens with a case of tubercular peritonitis, as it was diagnosed, which made a good recovery under careful regulation of the diet and bowels, cod-liver oil, iodide of iron, &c. In another case, apparently more acute, opium $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. every hour, with one gr. of quinine in each dose, and iced cloths to the abdomen for half an hour every two hours, were equally successful, the patient being convalescent in five weeks. In reply to those who would argue that true tubercular peritonitis must be fatal, and attribute these successes to errors in diagnosis, Dr. Anderson refers to Mr. Spencer Wells' work on the Ovaries (p. 135), for a case in which the whole peritoneum was actually seen to be studded with innumerable tubercles, and yet the patient made a good recovery, and afterwards married.