

pared, is doomed to undergo, in a popularity court-ing Assembly, no small proportion of whose members have never sought to acquire that knowledge which might qualify them for the duty of legislating on such matters, I think we should never, unless under very cogent necessity, venture to ask for any legislation whatever. We may go in with decent apparel, but our chance of coming out with untattered garments is certainly very slender.

Is there any *self-respecting*, or *professional-respecting* member of our body, who regards the hybrid synthesis presented in our present authoritative Ontario medical corporation, without feeling the blush of shame mantling his cheek? Surely we cannot be far from the millenium of medicine, or from its deluge, when we see the lamb and the leopard lying down together, and the calf and the lion feeding amicably at the same crib, the king of beasts having passed through the dentist's hands, and now eating straw like the ox, and doubtless, also, in bovine docility, chewing the cud! Is this evolutionary progression, or is it atavic retrogression? Will it eventuate in the survival of the fittest, or in the evolvement of a new species? Let us hope for the best, for hardly can worse be in store. If we have not touched bottom, the pit must be awfully deep. It was perhaps needful for our future virtue, that we should be taught how low we could be degraded. The bitterest pang of the dying eagle was that provoked by the sight of the feather from his own wing on the arrow which pierced his bosom. So has it been with us; but be the shame on its authors, and let them bury it as best they can. *Similes similibus inhumetur.*

The last report of our Provincial Registrar gives evidence of fair progress in the statistical returns which it exhibits, and it is much to be desired that so valuable a publication may undergo continuous improvement and enlargement. We are still without the benefit of a central Board of Health and its tributary organizations, but as a vigorous committee of the Legislative Assembly, during the last session, devoted much attention to the subject of sanitation, and availed itself of the opinions of numerous experienced physicians, we may reasonably trust that in the next session our expiring Parliament will place on the Statute Book an Act which will prove that they duly value the great national blessing of public health.

There is, however, one most important provision, which, unless the subject be strenuously urged upon the consideration of Government, will be overlooked, if not, indeed, dignifiedly ignored. I allude to the direction, by the central Board, of all matters relating to the health of our large public institutions, embracing, as such a provision should do, the selection of proper sites, the erection of substantial and truly economic buildings, securing of salubrious air and reliable abundant ventilation, adequate sewerage without detriment to the health of neighbouring localities, a sufficient and cheap supply of pure and serviceable water, advantageous position for obtainment and delivery of all sorts of supplies, and for prompt recruitment of the service staff. Every one of these requirements should be insisted on.

It is my conviction, not founded on vague conjecture, (for I know whereof I speak,) that not merely would the authoritative guidance of an efficient central board of health, invested with the powers above instanced, have saved to the public, in the last thirty years, scores-aye, hundreds-of thousands of dollars, but, (which is even more important,) it would have prevented the erecting of some of our most valuable institutions in unhealthy, unseemly, or very disadvantageous localities. Those of your number, who are old enough to remember that plover and snipe preserve, in the west end of Toronto, which was chosen as the site of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, will assuredly not say that it was an eligible location for so large an establishment. It could never have been approved of by any body of men, large or small, who understood practical hygiene. Some of the stone foundations had, owing to the quagmire pits lighted upon, to be sunk to a depth of 12 or 14 feet. In order to bring the surrounding ground to any sort of a decent face, recourse was had to the most unwise and insanatory expedient, of scooping out a basement 4 to 5 feet deep, just as though the surface was not already too low and damp. The water had to be brought almost a mile from the lake, or rather the dirty outlet of the bay; and as if the fluid was not already sufficiently impure, the building committee, perhaps under Board of Ordnance constraint, carried the main sewer of the establishment, in company with the water pipe, to the pumping house, there discharging the putrid stream within 40 or 50 yards of the open mouth of the