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SCOTIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.

BY STEPHEN DODGE, M. D.

Allow me to express my thanks to the members of this society for electing me to fill the honorable position of President on this occasion. I trust you will overlook any shortcomings of mine in discharging the duties devolving upon me, and that the present meeting may not only equal those of former occasions, but surpass them in the interest awakened in professional matters and prove profitable to all present. The bill of fare that our worthy secretary has placed before us indicates no lack of material for thought. * * * *

In his presidential address four years ago Dr. Campbell gave us some very interesting facts relative to the medical history of our province, especially in those days when medical men

were few in number and the country sparsely settled. The address was published in the MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS, and those of you who do not take that journal have missed a treat.

As far back as 1828, in the reign of George IV., an act was passed regarding the practice of medicine. It provided "that no man could recover any reward for medical or surgical aid without a diploma from some college legally authorized to grant the same, or after having been examined by judges to be appointed by the Governor." This was a most important step, and served as the basis for all subsequent legislation on this subject, and at the same time prevented the people from becoming a prey to quacks and ignorant charlatans. The more populous parts of the province in those days were supplied with physicians legally qualified from the possession of a diploma; but the thinly inhabited parts were obliged to be content with men who had seen more or less of practical work, and had either had the benefit of private tuition or a partial medical course. Such men had to undergo an examination in practical subjects, and if they satisfied the examiners they were recommended for