

the Bill and other materials upon the subject in hand that he was good enough to send me.

The object of all legislation *re* professions is the protection of the public against incompetency, but the government having demanded a certain proficiency of the members of any profession, which proficiency is not attained without cost, is honorably bound to give certain privileges and protection to those who do comply with the law in its demands; but the protection of the profession is secondary or perhaps incidental, the primary object being, as I have stated, the protection of the public.

It is obvious that any legislation which reduces the standard of qualification either for matriculants or practitioners reduces the protection to the public, and looked at from this standpoint, the agreement reached by the National Associations above referred to is distinctly a retrogressive step; but the scheme herein proposed for the nationalization of standards in dentistry for the Dominion of Canada is the opposite in its tendency, for it is not proposed to make a national standard as low as the lowest provincial standard in order that all may come in, but as high or higher than any or all provincial standards, as they now exist, and to take power to so alter the national standard at any time as to keep it in that exalted position.

Some of the territories and provinces of Canada in medicine and dentistry, have what might be justly termed reciprocity clauses, whereby the Examining Boards of such territories or provinces take power to acknowledge the diplomas or certificates of license issued by any other province, provided that the standard set by the province of the second part is equivalent to the standard set by the province or territories of the first part, and provided that the province or territories of the second part agree to acknowledge and accept the certificates of license issued by the province or territories of the first part. Without going into individual instances, I do not hesitate to say, that while this may be a step in the right direction it is only a short step, and that even if carried to its most hopeful conclusion where all provinces and territories had such clauses, that it would not result in the benefits to the profession and the public that would be brought about by a national standard.

We were foretold that at the joint meeting of the National Associations held last week in New Jersey, one of the questions to be discussed was the advisability of adopting a four-years' college course in our profession. It is hardly probable that any steps were taken toward the immediate adoption of a lengthened college course, and although its immediate necessity would be