

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

THE *News*, Toronto, in referring to the recent session of the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons, stated that that body is to be congratulated on having met a situation of difficulty with dignity and sense. This situation, it is true, was not one of its own creation, or, rather it was the creation of the last Council, for the present body received its mandate of existence only last fall, when the representatives of the various bodies constituting it were elected. That Council, with both rashness and haste, passed a regulation for matriculation, which, on its most obvious interpretation, would have practically closed the door of the medical profession in this Province to all but the sons of the wealthy.

That the old Council did not intend this, whatever a few of the members had in view, may be at once conceded, but it only serves to bring out quite clearly the fact that a rash step on a most important matter was being taken without due consideration of its import, and it gave color to the charge that the members, who were all seeking re-election, wished only to present a showy record to their constituents. The proposed matriculation had to be greatly modified, and the curriculum eventually demanded by the Executive Committee, of course, fell far short of the original demand. At the recent meeting this decision came up for review, and, of course, was severely criticised by the "last ditch" members, but the moderation and good sense of the Council, once again supreme, brought about by a large majority the endorsement of the action of the Executive Committee. It further adopted the proposal to refer the whole question of matriculation to a small select committee, which is to report on the subject next year. This will ensure full consideration of a difficult matter.

On other points there is evidence of the desire of the Council to meet a modern situation in an enlightened and open-minded manner. The curriculum has undergone revision, and, while it is not in every detail satisfactory, it is now much more in the line of progress than it was. For the first time, also, the Council has adopted measures which permit the various medical teaching institutions to exercise their own discretion in determining the time which is to be allotted to instruction in a subject of the curriculum, a point that ought to have always been within the sphere of the teaching organizations. The business of the Council is to find out whether a candidate for registration as a practitioner of medicine in this Province possesses the requisite knowledge, and a curriculum to that end is necessary, but beyond the number of years and months to be devoted to each subject, the Council should not in the past have gone, for its exaction of a stipulated number of hours of instruction in each subject meant that every teaching in-