

Transportation companies are compelled to observe certain conditions for the *salus populi*, the safety of the people. A municipality is held responsible for accidents caused by defective roadways. The individual is quickly brought to book if he violates the rights of his neighbor. The legislature, however, owes no responsibility for the disasters and deaths that may follow in the footsteps of those who are allowed to practise medicine, without first having taken a full course of study in the healing art. This is surely a wilful breaking of the great commandment to do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

It is difficult to imagine anything more absurd, indeed more morally wrong, than to tolerate those who do not know, or worse, do not believe in contagion, treating disease. Just think of a Christian Scientist treating a case of acute mania, or an osteopath trying to cure dementia præcox by massaging the head, or a chiropractor claiming to remedy pelvic disease by manipulating the vertebra prominens! This is not mythology but actual fact. It is no part of the legislature's duty to decide under what name any one shall practice; but it is its duty to enact that he must be fully trained in everything that makes up a modern medical education. At great expense many individuals and the Legislature of this Province have built colleges and hospitals, and are giving large sums annually to maintain these. It would be a *reductio ad absurdum* to permit untrained persons to put out their signs and treat disease.

The people have their rights; and the greatest of these rights is that of protection from the unskilled beater, by whatever name. Fine colleges and hospitals now exist. The people should be protected from the chance of falling into the hands of any one who has not acquired the scientific and practical training these institutions can afford. The public also are entitled to demand that no new institutions be established with the view of furnishing short cuts to some form of medical practice. The selfishness of man must be restrained; and all down the pages of history he has preyed upon the sufferings of his fellow man. Against this sort of parasitism the people must be safeguarded. This is the duty of the Legislature, as Wordsworth says, "Stern duty, daughter of the voice of God." The individual should be free to go where he pleases for his medical attendance; but no matter to whom he applies, the law should guarantee an average standard of efficiency. On the other hand there should be no hesitancy on the part of the law in the curtailing the liberty of those who would attempt to palm off some imposture as medical science. In order that "law be," as Burke said, "beneficence acting by rule," the law must be good; and no law is good that is not founded on "reason," according to Coke, and has for its final aim