

## CANADA

# Medical and Surgical Journal.

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### THE BRITISH MEDICAL AMENDMENT BILL.

The Bill of Amendment to the British Medical Act of 1858 is still before the House of Commons, and although it has passed the second reading, it is by no means certain that it will become law during the present session. The number of corporate bodies, holding each and all of them licensing powers, has led to unhealthy competition, and in some instances the laxity in examination is such as to be viewed with alarm by the profession generally, as well as by the thinking public. It is true that the public, as a rule, do not estimate the relative value of the diplomas issued by any of those bodies, so that whether a man has obtained an M.D., from a university, or a license from a college, it becomes a matter of small moment when his services are required.

The Bill as introduced appears to give small satisfaction, inasmuch as it does not deal with the objectionable system complained of: that is, it grants permission to two or more bodies to conjoin and form a central examining board, but it does not decide the question at issue by enacting that it shall be compulsory for the licensing bodies in each section of the kingdom, to form themselves into a central board of examiners, and that a diploma or degree shall be recognised as alone conferring an honorary distinction. It would appear that anything short of this will not be acceptable to the profession in Great Britain, and we have no doubt, an act with one door of entrance into the profession will ultimately be obtained.

There is, unquestionably, a desire to obtain such an act, and it certainly looks ungracious on the part of the Scotch and Irish corporations to refuse to surrender privileges which were in