

ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

A special meeting of the Ontario Medical Council was held November 17th to 20th to consider the revision of examination tests and other important matters pertaining to the medical profession in the Province. The President of the Council, Dr. Glasgow, who opened the session, remarked that during the last seventeen years there had been a great many changes, and it was time for a revision of the curriculum for examinations. It was now generally acknowledged that the matriculation examination was not sufficiently high. The profession in Ontario should set a particularly high standard, but for some years past the matriculation examination had been a reproach. Another very important matter was that of interprovincial reciprocity.

Dr. Ryan, Superintendent of Rockwood Asylum, Kingston, outlined the most important changes advocated in the examinations by the Education Committee of the Council. A very important provision in the recommendations of the committee was that of raising the standard of matriculation practically 25 per cent. In chemistry the committee were recommending that the course as given by the various universities should be adopted and that two years in chemistry and the passing of two examinations should be demanded. Dr. Ryan did not favor reciprocity with Great Britain or European centres where conditions were fixed and the professions crowded, but he did believe that reciprocity with the great West would be of vast advantage to all graduates. It was quite impossible in the smaller centres of population to have such hospital or clinical advantages as were to be found in the Eastern colleges. It was also provided in the report that a student failing to pass in one-third of the subjects should not be allowed to try again till the next year. Alluding to the raising of the matriculation standard, Dr. Ryan remarked that if the higher percentage now asked for by the Council had been exacted in the recent examinations 25 per cent. of the students would not have graduated.

The Council proceeded to discuss the report clause by clause. In the course of an animated debate, Dr. Britton, of Toronto, said he believed they might easily go too far. Many men of lowly birth who were a credit to the medical profession would still be holding the plough if they had been required to pass the senior matriculation examination. And thus, eminent men as they were now acknowledged to be, they would have been lost to what he might call their closed circle.