

lution to the effect that it is expedient that a Department of Public Health be created by the Dominion Government and administered under the authority of one of the existing Ministers of the Crown, thus bringing all general questions relating to sanitary science and public health under one central authority, to be known as the Public Health Department. There is no need for me to dwell upon the importance or desirability of this step; it must commend itself to every member of the profession.

Thus far the Government has not seen its way to grant the desired measure. The work is not yet accomplished, and the need of pushing the matter still exists. I sincerely hope the meeting will not dissolve without first passing a strong resolution in favor of the measure, and thus encourage and strengthen the hands of the committee who have this work in hand.

And now I desire to touch upon my third point, which I regard as of the highest importance. I refer here to the Dominion of Canada Medical Act, which was assented to in the Federal House in 1902. We are under a deep debt of gratitude to the members of the special committee, and especially to Dr. T. G. Roddick, for his untiring efforts to get this measure placed upon the statutes of the country and it is with great regret that I notice so much misapprehension as to the scope and powers of this Bill still exists in certain quarters. It has been thought that it would encroach upon the rights and privileges of the different Provincial Medical Boards and interfere with their autonomy, and I gladly hail this opportunity to say a few words which may help to remove this misapprehension. It was, and is, not in any way intended to interfere with existing provincial rights or intrench upon the prerogatives of Provincial Medical Boards. As an instance, in my own native Province, Quebec, our French-speaking brethren will have the right of examination in their own language.

Provincial registration and Provincial Boards will still continue to exist, and each Province will be at liberty to fix whatever standard it pleases for its own practitioners. They can, where they wish, continue as examining boards with power to grant provincial licenses, as they do now, and in any case in their hands will be left all matters relating to taxation and professional discipline.

The Bill is a purely permissive one, and though it has been placed upon the statutes of the country, it will be necessary, before it can become operative, to have the consent and co-operation of all the Provincial Medical Boards. Each Provincial Board will have to seek a slight amendment to its present Medical Act. This is all that is now required to make this most desirable measure effective, and I sincerely trust that this