

practice: may do for hotel touters, for representatives of bogus insurance companies, but are unworthy of the members of a liberal profession.

If a medical society were established in the various districts, a fair scale of fees might be agreed upon amongst its members as adapted to the social condition of the inhabitants, and usage would give such scale the force of law, if the members of the profession would favorably assist one another. I do not mean to overcharge, but to charge a reasonable fee for valuable service.

As becomes a body representing the profession of medicine—a profession the constant aim and desire—*raison d'être* of which is to preserve life, prevent disease, and avert death; the Provincial Board, at its May meeting in 1882, passed a resolution approving of a Bill then before the Provincial Parliament, dealing with the great subjects of Public Health and Vital Statistics, and respectfully recommending the Legislature to give the principles of the Bill its most serious consideration. Perhaps in no way, outside the discharge of their professional duties to their patients, can members of the College and of the Provincial Board do more for the general good than by using their respective personal and official influence with our legislators to pass laws dealing with questions of public health and vital statistics.

During the session of the Provincial Legislature held in 1882 a few amendments to the Medical Act were suggested by the gentleman who was acting as the legal adviser of the College, intended to facilitate the methods of procedure in the courts against persons infringing the provisions of the Act. These amendments will be found in the 2nd, 6th, 23rd, 28th and 32nd sections of the existing Act; and another at the end of section 15, which was based upon a resolution of the Provincial Board, passed at a semi-annual meeting. This last amendment secured the important principle that medical students shall attend a course of lectures during the fourth year of their professional studies, and shall not pass an examination upon the great final subjects of the curriculum until the close of the session of their fourth year.

These several amendments were submitted to the Governors residing in Quebec and Montreal; and having received their approval were introduced by the Hon. Mr. Mercier, and were passed by the Legislature.

A correspondence having appeared in the public papers some time ago to the effect that private

examinations are given by Professors connected with a medical school in this Province, and that on these examinations certificates are issued purporting that the bearers are entitled to a diploma, and are in fact medical practitioners; a Committee of the Governors was charged with the duty of investigating the statements, and it is gratifying to be able to report that no evidence could be elicited to substantiate them, and that the Board unanimsly voted them untrue.

The importance of watching closely the proceedings of the Provincial Legislature has been upon former occasions brought before the College, but the insertion of the following clause in an Act passed last session entitled, "Acte pour amender et refondre l'Acte Incorporant l'Association des Dentistes," etc., is such an obvious disregard of the rights and welfare of the medical profession in the interests of one or perhaps a few individuals that it ought not to be overlooked in a review of the history of the College during the last three years. The clause is as follows: "Et nonobstant les dispositions de la Section 8, de l'Acte 42-43 Victoria, Chapitre 37, (that is the Medical Act) toute personne pratiquant légalement l'art dentaire depuis dix ans et plus, avant la passation du présente acte, serra par le fait considéré comme admis-étudiant en médecine et propre à suivre le cour et subir tout examen requis pour la pratique de la médecine dans les Universités ou Colléges de cette Province en ce conformant aux réglemens des dit Colléges ou Universités." That is to say, any person who shall have legally practised as a dentist for ten or more years before the passing of the Dental Act of 1883 shall be exempt from a preliminary examination, and may at once enter upon the study of medicine. That this piece of *modest* legislation was really intended to serve private interests further appears probable from the fact that a letter was received by the Quebec Secretary of the College from a dentist applying for enregistration under the Act in question. I need hardly say that a committee of the College has been appointed to examine and report upon this subject.

The hand of death has not been idle amongst our colleagues during the last three years. Perhaps in no former like period have so many men of mark been removed from our ranks. Several of them have been distinguished as teachers as well as practitioners, and have left their personal stamp upon many of us—such were Francis