

“ ‘To the public. *Facilis descensus Averni*. The Parliament of the Province, during the last session, provided in part against the imposition of empirics in medicine. This was not more necessary for the safety of the diseased than the reputation of the faculty.’ Then follows an earnest appeal to the public and Parliament against quacks, their danger ‘without one ray of science’ who ‘presume to thrust the created into the presence of the Creator.’ Signed ‘W.’ (Not of the profession he says.)”

It was not a question of conferring unusual privileges on a body of medical men for their own benefit, or of creating a monopoly, but of giving them power to ensure to the people of the Province the services of well-educated, properly trained practitioners to attend them in sickness. We believe it, therefore, of much importance that there be a clear understanding of the chaotic and unsatisfactory condition of medical practice which gave rise to the public clamor for protection, and which resulted eventually in the establishment of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

The Ontario Medical Association believes that the College of Physicians and Surgeons, our universities and other organizations having control of the education and licensing of medical practitioners, have honorably and fairly discharged their duties in the public interest. The doors of the profession always have been and now are open for the admission of any who comply with the common regulations regarding education, training and examinations. In no sense of the word may the profession of medicine in Ontario be considered a close corporation.

The Ontario Medical Association holds that every person before being legally entitled to treat the sick should comply with the same educational conditions; whatever the system of treatment may be, it can be most intelligently carried out by one who is properly educated. This applies alike to preliminary as well as to scientific or professional education.

To understand disease and treat it intelligently necessitates a knowledge of the structure and functions of the body in health, as well as of the various conditions acting upon the body to produce change or derangement of these structures or functions—that is, disease. To be able to understand and treat disease intelligently, therefore, requires a proper training in anatomy, and physiology, by which we learn normal structure and function; in pathology, anatomy and pathological chemistry, by which we learn of the changes in structure and function encountered in disease; in chemistry, physics and bacteriology, in order to understand the conditions acting upon the individual to produce disease, and to acquire information necessary to apply preventive measures, requisite alike