

THE SUPPRESSION OF QUACKERY.

Some time was spent at the last meeting of the Ontario Medical Council in discussing the ways and means of the suppression of quackery in the Province. The motion to appoint a public prosecutor was not sustained, and it now remains incumbent upon each representative of a territorial division to nominate a prosecutor for his district whenever occasion may arise. Dr. Grant's proposal to tax every quack advertisement in the newspapers appears to us to be quite impracticable, and, even if feasible, totally insufficient. Personally we agree with Dr. Lavell in advocating free trade in medicine, holding it to be the inalienable right of every British subject to be fooled to the top of his bent when so inclined. Dr. Geikie's proposal that quacks should be taxed in the same way as pedlars and circuses, was one of the absurdest suggestions we ever heard emanate from a sensible man, to say nothing of the more than questionable morality of legitimising the nefarious traffic of the charlatan for a small pecuniary consideration. With Dr. McCammon we are in full accord in thinking that the most dangerous charlatans are those whose names appear upon the Register, and the common sense remedy is, as he suggested, to appeal to Parliament to amend the Medical Act by conferring upon the Council power to erase a man's name from the Register for any conduct "infamous in a professional respect." The General Medical Council of Great Britain now possesses this power, and occasionally exercises it with beneficent effect. Our cousins in the State of Illinois have so contrived things that the other day two gentlemen were admitted to the Register upon (bogus?) diplomas, one from Glasgow and the other from Edinburgh, and, it appearing from newspaper advertisements shortly after that they had entered into co-partnership to practise charlatanism of the first water, Dr. John Rauch, the indefatigable secretary of the State Board of

Health, in whose hands the power of registration lies, at once had their names removed from the Register; within twenty-four hours legal proceedings had been instituted against them, and the quacks had moved to an adjoining state. The Medical Council and the Medical Register exist rather for the benefit of the people than of the profession. To be sure the one-portal system possesses the advantage of securing a uniform minimum qualification which doubtless elevates the standard as a whole; but the penal clauses of the Act, even if they were not inoperative, would not redound to the personal advantage of the profession. It is not, however, asking too much, to demand that when a member of the profession pays in his annual dues he shall receive in return therefor a *bona-fide* assurance that on the register recognized by law his name shall not appear in juxtaposition with an advertising quack's; and that the list shall be so purged and guarded that the very fact of a man's name appearing on it shall be *prima facie* evidence of his incapacity for anything "unbecoming a physician and a gentleman."

 THE AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of this young Association of American Surgeons met in Cincinnati, on the 31st May, and 1st and 2nd of June, under the Presidency of that Surgical Nestor, Samuel D. Gross, M.D., LL.D., D.C.L. The meeting was a complete success; a number of interesting papers were thoroughly discussed. Seven new members were elected, there being eleven vacancies; but a proposal to increase the membership from 100 to 150 was rejected. Dr. E. M. Moore, of Rochester, N. Y., was elected President, and the Secretary was instructed to write to all fellows requesting them to resign if they could not subscribe to the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association.