

passage of the Act of 1886, and who for ten years afterward acted as Registrar, that one of the most glaring evils, and one which worked most harm to the public and loss of dignity to our profession, was the fact that owing to the ease with which registration could be effected, many itinerate medical men came to British Columbia as a mere matter of speculation, stayed a short time, doing a cash business only, and advertising in the most objectionable manner, and would then leave the country. Often these individuals fraudulently made use of the card and name of some well-known specialist of San Francisco or elsewhere, representing that they were the men themselves, or their partners. That the medical practitioners of Victoria were chiefly instrumental in passing and introducing this Act can be gathered from the minutes of the British Columbia Medical Society (the first Medical Society in the Province), which sprang into existence just before the passing of this Act, but which, after a short but active life, during which it held six record meetings within the short space of three weeks, seems to have ceased to exist. A few extracts from the minutes of this pioneer society, I think, will be interesting. The first meeting was held in Victoria on January 15th, 1885; present Drs. Davie, Mathews, Rowbothom, Jackson, Milne, Dearden, Harrison, Taylor, J. D. Helmcken, Ash, Praeger and Powell. The Hon. J. S. Helmcken was elected President; Dr. Rowbothom, Vice-President; Dr. J. D. Helmcken, Secretary-Treasurer.

That the primary object of the Society was medical legislation may be inferred from the fact that the second motion carried (the first being one giving the society a name), was one to elect a committee, composed of Drs. Davie, Harrison, and Milne, to frame a constitution for the Society and draft an Act to regulate the law governing the medical profession in British Columbia. This Committee acted promptly, for at a meeting held on the 22nd of January, just seven days later, the following resolution was carried: "That the Act as amended be accepted by the Society," and that the Committee, who had it in hand, be asked to lay it before the Attorney-General. At this meeting letters were also read from Drs. Bentley, Trew, and Masters, of New Westminster; and Drs. Walkem, Cluness, and Jones, of Nanaimo, asking to be enrolled as members of the Society. The last recorded meeting of this Society took place on February 4th, 1885, when a discussion took place on amendments proposed by members from New Westminster. The chief features of the new Act, which finally passed the Legislature on April 6th, 1886, were: (1st) Registration of all persons already registered under the old Act, and further, the registration of all persons upon application