

the difficulties they encountered, what they accomplished, and to trace their influence on the evolution of the profession in the province; but the time at my disposal will permit of only a brief reference to them. They were men socially of high rank, and certainly well abreast with the advancement of medicine at that time, thoroughly trained in the schools of London, Edinburgh and Dublin at a period made brilliant by the labors of the Hunters, Edward Jenner, Percival Pott, Benjamin Bell, John Bell and other great teachers. They possessed a wide experience, not only of medicine, but of men and affairs, gained by active service during the wars of that period. The influence of these early military surgeons has been indelibly stamped on the medical profession of this province, and has been an important factor in giving character to our clinical teaching and practice. To their efforts we are indebted for the first efficient legislative control of the practice of medicine, obtained by the Medical Act of 1818 under which the Medical Board of Upper Canada was created. From that time until its last meeting in 1865, before the formation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, this Medical Board guarded the entrance to the profession and practically controlled the medical affairs of the province. Up until 1830 the influence of the military element in relation to the medical profession was practically supreme and undisputed. In the very nature of things they were in close touch and sympathy, and evidently possessed the confidence of the Governors and the Executive, which, in the period preceding the MacKenzie Rebellion, administered as they deemed best the affairs of the province. This intimate association of the founders of our profession with the all-powerful Family Compact was a potent factor in securing the sympathetic co-operation and often active assistance of the early Governors and other branches of the Administration, in establishing the profession on a proper basis. In this connection it is pleasant to note, in parenthesis, that the profession in the early days had a warm friend and able advocate in the Rev. Dr. Strachan. In all ages the true followers of Aesculapius have had to deplore the ease with which too frequently clerical support has been enlisted in behalf of their enemies, the rapacious irregulars and quacks who fatten on the ignorance of the laity in matters medical, but the prevalent quackery of the days prior to the Medical Board got no quarter from this strenuous ecclesiastic.

It was through the efforts of the military surgeons that the