

demanding for obtaining degrees or diplomas—then and not before shall I feel prepared to recommend an alteration in that proposed for adoption by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada East. The curriculum proposed in the suggestions, will be found to be *that which was introduced by the Honble. Mr. Attorney General Smith in his Revised Medical Bill of last year*, and which, it will scarcely be questioned, met with the sanction of the Editors of the British American Journal at that time.

Apologizing to you, Mr. Editor, for the space occupied by this communication, I would simply recommend and in perfect good faith I do it, that they should cease their harping upon national differences—from the merest trifles in the conduct and demeanour of an individual, it is generally easy to find out his whole character. The scheme to be submitted on the 14th instant, was adopted as a means of making another attempt to bring the members of the Profession in Canada East into a state of greater harmony and goodfellowship. Let the Editors of the British American Journal beware then how they attempt to increase the rupture that has existed up to within a very short time past.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours obediently.

MEDICUS.

—Pilot, October 8, 1846.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, C. E.
REPLY TO "MEDICUS."

To the Editor of the Pilot and Journal of Commerce.

MR. EDITOR,—A communication has appeared in your journal of the 8th instant, over the signature of "Medicus," animadverting on an editorial article in the last number of the British American Journal, having reference to the proposal now before the profession for the establishment of a College of Physicians and Surgeons for Canada East. As the meeting of the profession to consider that proposal is to take place on the 14th inst, thus precluding the possibility of a reply to "Medicus" in our own columns, we are constrained to request of you the favour of permitting the insertion of the following answer to that communication in your journal, feeling satisfied that, as the interests of the profession are involved in the matter under consideration, you will not deny us the privilege.

Your professional readers need not to be informed that the proposal upon which the strictures were offered was a calmly and minutely discussed one by the delegates at Quebec; that it came therefore before the profession, with at least a show of authority; and that the proposed scheme presented the best mode, in their estimation, for regulating, in a proper manner, the interests of the profession. It was clearly not our duty to propose another scheme in lieu of that one which had been just submitted; our duty consisted in canvassing the merits and demerits of the one proposed. That duty was performed. We submitted it to a critical examination, proved its working, and plainly demonstrated that with an admirable pretence of liberality to which the prefix "*pseudo*" might very properly be added, its aim and its object was the degradation of the honours of the profession, by compelling the holders of its degrees and diplomas to undergo

examinations as to their competency to engage in the practical duties of that profession, before men, many of whom were their inferiors in point of professional rank in consequence of possessing none. We repeat that the British American Journal *will* advocate, and has ever advocated, the *general* good of the profession, and not of particular parties in it. From this principle in its editorial management it will not deviate. It will as carefully protect the rights of the Licentiates of the Boards as it will those of the Graduates and Surgeons. The latter have not asserted any precedence over the former; nor is it proper that the former should over the latter. The proposed scheme is the first attempt of the kind, and the British American Journal has exposed it,—with what success remains to be seen. However displeasing the attempt has been to "Medicus," the Editors have received testimonials that it has not proved quite so unsatisfactory to others. People like not to have *their plans disconcerted*—their airy visions dissipated into nothingness; and the independence of the Journal is in nothing more clearly demonstrated than when its opinions are found in hostility with "some of the most influential, liberal and deservedly respected (both socially and professionally) members of the profession at Quebec," "two of whom are connected by family ties with one of the Editors." Ergo, says "Medicus," our opinions *ought* to coincide with theirs. We assure "Medicus" that on the principle which guides us, we beg leave to have an opinion of our own; and if we express it undisguisedly, with boldness, and *without equivocation*, there are few *honest men* who will disapprove of the procedure.

"Medicus" styles the proposed scheme "liberal." Let us test its liberality. In the first place the Fellowship of the College is to be restricted to Provincial Licentiates of twenty years' standing; Licentiates above fifteen years may be *elected* (if it suits the pleasure of the electors) upon their application; while Licentiates of from seven to fifteen years standing, are eligible for election *after examination*. This is the liberality of "Medicus" and the "Delegates." Now if "Medicus" had studied the "*spirit*" of our remarks with as scrutinizing an eye as he has their "*letter*," he would have discovered that we considered that every Licentiate, whether a Graduate or not, was entitled to the Fellowship at once. As practitioners, they are on a par. They have all the same privileges, and we see no reason why *any* should be disfranchised or debarred from such an honour, if it be one, whether their beards were of twenty years growth or less; yet this idea is considered illiberal by "Medicus."—Verily, "Medicus" has strange notions of 'liberality.'

Again—the proposal declares, that every person presenting a degree or diploma from a British University or College, shall be submitted to examination for membership or license, if the said diploma or degree be not obtained after the fulfilment of a *certain fixed course of study, which has not a parallel in any British University or College*. This clause naturally subjects every British Graduate and Surgeon to examination before a body of men, many, if not a majority, of whom are his inferiors in point of professional rank; and yet the possession of the diplomas or degree is evidence of the competency of the party holding them to engage in the active