

Dominion Medical Monthly.

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GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL.

The Haycock bill having been unceremoniously pitchforked out of the Legislature, consent was given, by a new Act, to the amendment of section 16, Ontario Medical Act.

This section provided that a tariff of professional fees could be adopted by a divisional Medical Association and when approved by the Medical Council, this tariff was held to be a scale of reasonable charges for medical services rendered in the division where the member making the charges resides.

This section being now repealed, a physician may charge such fees as he thinks proper. If he is obliged to collect an account by a suit at law, the court will decide whether the charges are excessive or not. In

certain cases this may necessitate the appearance of one or two physicians in the witness box, in order to enlighten the court as to the question at issue.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT OF 1895.

An amendment to this Act provides that in towns having a population of over four thousand, the local Board of Health shall consist of the mayor and six members, instead of eight as heretofore. The members of a township or village board of health whose appointments used to be made *annually* by the Council, are now to be appointed as follows: One member to be appointed for three years, one member for two years, and one member for one year, each member retiring to be replaced by a member appointed for three years. In towns having over four thousand population two members are appointed for three years, two for two years, and two for one year, the retiring members to be replaced by two members appointed for three years.

The operation of these clauses will probably bring about the presence on local boards of health of individuals who take a real and an abiding interest in hygiene, and who, being allowed to have a certain continuity of office, will accomplish some effective sanitary work previous to their retirement.

In controlling the establishment of public water supplies, a notable addition is made to the powers possessed by the Provincial Board of Health. Heretofore the powers of that Board in this behalf have been advisory; in future it will not be possible for a