

and Surgeons of Ontario is refused the right thus otherwise universally granted of electing their governing body.

A glance at the component elements of the Council will make this statement clear. Subsequent to the passage of the Act of 1869 the Medical Council was composed of nine university and school men, five homœopaths, five eclectics and twelve representatives of the general profession. In other words, in a Council of thirty-one members the general profession elected twelve whilst certain privileged classes selected the balance of nineteen members.

To a consideration of the reasons, or rather excuses, vouchsafed for this extraordinary and anomalous state of affairs I respectfully ask your attention. In doing so may I request that you divest your thoughts of all self-interest and prejudice and view the questions involved purely upon their merits, and from the standpoint of the highest and best interest of the profession.

Before proceeding further it may be well to call to mind the arguments put forward in defence of the anomalous position occupied by the privileged representatives of the Council.

These arguments are :

First: By legislation power had been granted to universities, colleges, medical schools and to the allopathic, homœopathic and eclectic boards, making all of them examining and "licensing boards," and the argument is that the anomalous representation was granted in lieu of the surrender of these so-called "vested rights."

Second: By an agreement or "compact" entered into at the inception of the Council, these privileges were granted.

This, so far as I know, is a fair and full statement of the reasons assigned by those members of the Council whose status I venture to call in question.

I shall first examine the question of the so-called "vested rights," and in so doing it will be necessary to recall a very few of the salient points in the history of medical legislation in Canada and this Province. Prior to 1869, by Acts passed by the Parliament of the Province of Canada, power was granted to certain educational institutions, and also to the eclectic, homœopathic and allopathic boards to examine students and issue certificates to successful candidates of having attained a certain status of medical education. *This and nothing more.* I ask special attention to this point because there seems to exist a hazy impression that these boards and colleges had power to issue licenses, and in recent years two Presidents of the Council have called them "licensing boards." Not one of these had any more power to grant licenses than the ghost of Æsculapius. On the