

article to light, was not of a nature to guide him in the study of this important subject. If a hint will serve to give a little calm to the ideas of our confrère, we can tell him that the promoters of the bill had no idea of pushing it this session further than its second reading. In so doing they had two objects in view, first to have the Legislature confirm the principle of the measure and the necessity of a reform, and secondly, to submit to the profession in this way the projected Medical Act. And they are perfectly satisfied with the position it holds to-day. The *Medical Record* advises the debate of reforms through the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Is this a farce? Does our confrère ignore the fact that for years, since the incorporation of the College, many useless efforts have been advanced by different members of the College for improvement. These have always been wrecked and stranded on the rocks of apathy and indifference of rival schools. And will it be different to-day? Has Mr. the Editor lived in the moon, that he is ignorant of all that passes around him? How many projects during the last twenty-five years have been shattered before the Governors of the College?

Let us give the suggestion or project that was entombed at the meeting of the 25th of November last.

At a meeting of the College, on the 24th of September, 1873, a committee was named to draft amendments to the act of corporation. In May, 1874, they had not reported. A new committee was asked for, but they took good care, of course, to eliminate therefrom those who took an interest in the question. At the Triennial Meeting in the month of July, in Sherbrooke, there was no report. At the meeting of the College the question was hotly discussed. Four Medical men were named, all professors in Universities, to furnish a report in the fall. At the meeting in September, the committee had done nothing. A Governor, not belonging to the Committee, seeing that nothing was being done, presented a drafted report or act in the name of the Committee; it was ordered to be printed, and its discussion deferred until spring.

In the month of May, the Report was invisible, it had not been printed. How could it be discussed? In the fall, things were in the same position; they then ran around town and unearthed several numbers of a Journal that had published it, and then its discussion commenced. Before its reading had fairly commenced, a certain member made a violent attack on the haste with which they wished to push a measure of such importance, and he left the room followed by a number of others. A quorum remained, who decided to call a meeting of the College for the 24th of November. Quite a number of the members of the College proceeded to Quebec, at the time appointed, but they found out there that, according to law, the members could only so assemble once in three years. They returned nonplussed. And now who are they, in the bosom of the College, who shackle without ceasing the generous efforts of some members? They are the same who to-day cry loudest at the audacity of those who have not believed in

entombing their project in the portfolio of the Secretary.

It is impossible to deny the urgency of a reform, when the injury done has assumed such alarming proportions, but those who are profiting by the abuses are anxious to delay as much as they can a change that they know to be inevitable.

The promoters did not wish to place their work in the hands of those extinguishers, or men of old ideas, and they did well. If this is audacity, it is well to remember the proverb *Audaces fortuna juvat*. The sympathetic and eager welcome with which the House received the Bill of the Hon. Mr. Chapleau augurs favorably for the issue.

Of one thing we may be certain, if at the last session the Bill was not pushed, for the reasons above given, it will be this fall with all the vigor and energy that its projectors possess, and these projectors will not do it silently as they have been accused; they hope to carry the majority, and are not afraid to meet before the committee of the House the adversaries of the measure. It will be then easy to furnish proofs to demonstrate that the system of actual competition between the schools is disastrous to the public and the profession, and that it is necessary to place a check before the enlarging crowd of incompetent students that are admitted to-day, and to this end there must be taken from these manufactories of Doctors a part of the privileges and rights that they now have and exercise.

The *Medical Record* finds it exorbitant that the new bill transfers the properties of the College to the new organization. First, we would like to know of what the property consists? Apart from its Records, Diploma and Seal, what remains to the College? Shall we speak of the petty cash that comes for the greater part from the sale of its Licenses that are useless to the holders? Let us suggest an amendment, that the members distribute among themselves this enormous amount; or better, let them decide to bury their decrepid organization by a Homeric supper. All is well that ends well.

We must not forget a painting that should be found somewhere, if the (M. Raton) rats have not disposed of it some night for a spree. It is that of the first President, the late Dr. Arnoldi. If it turns up in the dusty corner of some member's residence, we propose to restore it with full honors.

To speak seriously, if the College has any rights of value, the Committee of the Legislature is there to judge and decide. We need expect no injustice on their part. The archives are the only things that the new organization will require to commence work, and to endeavor to get order out of chaos. But, nevertheless, the Medical Bill presented by the Hon. Mr. Chapleau has, amongst the present governors a good number of supporters, and doubtless these confrères will show the value and worth of the projected Medical Act in a way to satisfy the unprejudiced.

Many feel the anomalous position in which they are placed as members of a body reputed to have