

mon sense. We need only mention such arguments as:—"You should not cut up a body because it is a candidate for resurrection day," "dissection is a relic of the dark ages," "dissection is practised to satisfy the idle curiosity of medical students," to show that we are not using any stronger expressions than are deserved.

It is impossible that it can be believed that doctors desire to do any harm by having the law. It has been found necessary in all other countries. It is well known to all men that before a medical student can claim a degree, he must have dissected the human body; that before he can undertake to treat the diseases or injuries of any member or part of the human body, he must have carefully examined the structure of the part, studied its size, form and dimensions and viewed its relations to surrounding organs. Would any man think of employing a doctor for himself or his family, if he thought that practical anatomy had not formed part of his studies? No one would think of doing so. But we will speak no further of dissection as a part of the study of medical students, every one must see that they require it. The principal point upon which the majority of men have not clear ideas is the necessity of placing dissecting material, under proper restrictions, at the disposal of our surgeons. For the benefit of those whose minds are not clear upon the point we may here make the statement, in which we will be borne out by all medical men, that dissection is as necessary to the practising surgeon as a knowledge of drugs is to the physician. No formidable operation should be undertaken by a young surgeon, no matter how perfect may be his knowledge of anatomy unless, if circumstances permit, he has gone over the operation on the dead body, for no amount of reading will give the same knowledge of what is to come under the knife, as the actual section of the parts upon the dead subject immediately before the operation upon the living.—Even old surgeons, when they are about to perform any difficult operation, if they have not already performed it many times, almost always desire to do it first upon the dead body. Apart then entirely from the require-

ments of medical students, it is necessary that we should furnish our surgeons from time to time with such dissecting material as it may be necessary for them to use before doing any difficult surgical operation.

But what seemed the most weighty argument against the bill was that while Hon. Members believed that it might be necessary for students and might be useful to surgeons, yet they did not think we were far enough advanced in this country for medical colleges or practical anatomy bills. Here we have a purely Nova Scotian argument; reason indigenous to the soil. Old Nova Scotia, with a most paternal face, pats one on the back and says:—"Now my boy, we never thought of practical anatomy or medical colleges fifty years ago and we had very good doctors then; there Dr. ———, he kept a good drug store, he has had, and still has a very good practice, he is old now, like myself, but he is worth money; and if you are steady you are certain to do as well. He has been our family physician for twenty years; he attended my wife nineteen times on interesting family occasions; he brought Johnnie and Sis safely through the measles and scarlet fever; he lanced all the babies' gums, yet he never thought of dissecting a human body. Ugh! my blood runs cold at the thought. To be sure, there was something occurred about three years ago which was beyond his skill. On one of those family occasions of which I have spoken, my wife met with an accident on account of which she was obliged to go to Edinburgh to have an operation performed; then I was forced to go to London myself about a year ago to have a stone crushed. But then these great operations are beyond the ability of Nova Scotians, they were never done in my time, and I think it will be a long time before they can be performed here. For my part I can never see how you youngsters can expect to do more than your gray-haired sires have done." Such are the opinions of those who desire that we should never make an attempt to improve ourselves; who wonder at, and admire the growth and intellectual progress in other countries, but can never believe that the elements of improve-