

Boards were established, at the instigation of the members of the profession themselves, by the provincial governments, with the good intention of regulating admission to practice and preventing quacks and charlatans from exercising their dangerous trade. So far so good. But the boards, like Jupiter's stork, were not satisfied. They have in some provinces assumed the rôle of educators, and dictate to teachers what they must teach and to learners what they must learn. They have injured the profession they were intended to protect, and they have hampered and impeded the progress of the medical schools. From their mischievous interference this school suffers to an extreme degree. In particular, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario imposes upon our students certain very vexatious regulations, and exacts of them pecuniary taxes, wholly out of proportion to the benefits they may ever expect to derive from becoming licentiates. It would seem that but two objects are aimed at by these regulations and impositions. Firstly, the establishment of a barrier to keep out of the field as many competitors as possible, the originators of the movement having affected an entrance before the fence was put up; and, secondly, to render it more and more inconvenient and uncomfortable for an Ontario student to seek his education out of his own province. Failure will attend both these objects, for the fittest will survive in the battle of life by the law of nature, and no legislation will ever enable those unsuited by natural abilities and defective education to take a front rank in the fight. The struggle for existence in the profession must be a fair one from the start, and those who cannot live by their own talents and energies, will seek in vain for any benefit from legislative aid.

The claim is made, on the other hand, that provincial boards exclude quacks and charlatans, and so protect the practitioner from dishonest competitors. As I write there lies before me a Montreal paper in which at a glance I see the open advertisement of three notorious charlatans. The Ontario Board is active enough as regards the honest practitioner, yet no one can say that irregular practice does not exist in that province.

The system of examining by boards for admission to practice