

steps that have been taken that have led to this present status, and to mention some of the difficulties that we have had to overcome. To understand this fully we must look back to the status that the profession occupied before 1865, which is the date of the first Act with which the Council was connected, though not under this name. Previous to that time we practically had free trade in medicine though not in the letter of the law. We had three medical schools in Ontario. We had three licensing boards, including eclectics and homœopaths. Each one of these three had its own standard; each one vied with the other to see who could turn out the greatest number of students. Colleges in Quebec sent up not a few to the province, and the American schools of all shades, eclectics, homœopaths and regulars, as well as some European colleges, flooded upon us their superfluous graduates. The profession was thus more than crowded in the Province of Ontario with men of very varied shades of qualification. Each school established its own standard and each carried out its own curriculum, and the result was that we had a very varied class of physicians then practicing in the country.

When the 1865 Act was enacted it immediately made a wonderful stirring up among the men who were practising in the country; those with foreign degrees were found running to the schools; those who couldn't successfully get on in the schools went to the licensing board, and, in very many cases secured licenses, and went on with their practice. Those not so fortunate were compelled to enter into some of the schools to complete their medical education; the result of this was that the number of practitioners in the country was very materially decreased. We find that the Act was a compromise measure; it was the schools who were seeking for legislation and not the profession at large. The school men were jealous of each other; each one believing that the other was a greater culprit in the matter of turning out imperfectly qualified students than themselves, and each was anxious that legislation should be secured, that some check might be had upon the other schools.

First, we notice that under this Act the Council was established, different in name, but practically as it is to-day. In order that each school might be willing to enter into this arrangement, it became necessary that they should be allowed a representative on that Council. Then that Council was given power to decide as to the standard of matriculation, and also the standard of the medical curriculum, though they were not allowed at that time to conduct examinations. They simply fixed the standard; each individual school went on and conducted its own examination after its own fashion. I may just call your attention to the fact right here that the British Medical

Act has only reached this stage up to the present. The Legislature in Great Britain refused to take the right away of granting degrees from the schools. I find also in this compromise Act the establishment of a system of registration, on condition that they had representation in the college; so we find in the 4th clause that each school and university should be represented in the college, a system that has not been changed.

In looking over that 1865 Act, we find there were some very striking features. One of the questions that arose in the 1891 Act had for its object the keeping of a correct register, and it was provided that if a letter is sent to an individual, and no answer is received within six months, the assumption is that he is either dead, or has ceased to practice, or has left the country, or did not wish to practice, and his name was dropped from the register. Under the 1865 Act he could not be restored to his position on the register without the sanction of the Medical Council. Under the 1891 Act he could be restored as of right whenever he wished, upon paying up the fees and announcing his intention of practising. Under clause 36 of the 1865 Act a provision was made which prevented the rights of the homœopaths and eclectics being infringed upon in any direction; they were secured their rights under the Statute at that time; no change was made in that direction that would affect them in any way whatever.

After this Act had been in operation from 1865 to 1868, another attempt was made to secure legislation: and now I think I may say that the attempt was made at the instance of the Medical Council, and not of the school men; it was felt that the plan of allowing each school to examine its own students, even though the college fixed the standard, did not prevent a great many imperfectly qualified men going into the profession. There was the further desire that the licensing boards of the eclectic and homœopathic branches should be brought under a general provision, and that the same standard should be adopted for all. Again another compromise was made. The desire was now that there should be one examining body, and in order to get all these different persons to consent to the one examining body, a further provision was granted to them, not only that they should have the right to representation on the Council, but that they should have one member on the Examining Board. That is why you find, continued in the Acts up to the present, that the colleges have a representative in the Council, and that they have the right to an examiner on the Examining Board.

In this 1868 Act power was obtained to hold matriculation examinations; it was also obtained to hold the Council examinations, and immediately after that they commenced conducting their examinations. They had no provision in the 1868