

and universities, it was an examining body as well, and granted permits to practise. As universities sprang up, the latter part of the duties of the Medical Board was in part abrogated, and the functions more or less limited to the registration of degrees. An exceedingly important change was effected when the Boards became elective bodies, truly representative of the profession. In Ontario, this was brought about by the Act of 1866, and in Quebec by the Act of 1847. In this province, the mode of selection of members is truly democratic, the profession in each electoral district selecting their candidate. In the Province of Quebec a more cumbrous and less distinctly popular mode is followed, whereby each constituent of a district votes not only for his own, but for the candidates in all other districts. As proxies are allowed, the entire election may be in the hands of any clique collecting the largest number; but this method is doomed, and the more popular one will shortly be introduced.

The struggle has all along been between the universities and the profession, as represented by the Medical Boards. The former have always maintained the right of their alumni to license without further examination—a privilege still granted in the Province of Quebec. But the universities chartered by the crown in past days did more: they opposed bitterly the incorporation of independent medical schools, as witness the hostility to the Montreal School of Medicine by the McGill University, and to the Toronto School of Medicine by the University of Toronto. Much of this opposition was based on the highest motives. The opponents were afraid that if numerous independent schools arose, each with licensing power, and the license recognized by the Provincial Boards, free trade in diplomas would result, the standard be lowered, and the profession, as a profession, ruined.

As at present constituted, the Medical Boards are entrusted by law with full power to regulate medical education in the provinces, to say what preliminary branches shall be required, of what the curriculum shall consist, and to make such changes as from time to time may seem advisable. When we consider the conditions under which we live, these enactments are in the