

this point he says :—"I can confidently affirm (from my experience in the General Medical Council and in the College of Surgeons) that it is not possible at present to add to the burden of examinations which the medical student has to bear without doing more harm than good. . . .

You can go on, no doubt, adding subject to subject, and examination to examination, but by so doing you only drive the student into further and further cramming. His serious defect at present is that, owing to the eternal cramming to which he is compelled to have recourse in order to master his subjects, he loses all power of thinking or reasoning for himself. He is being reduced to a mere grinding machine, which has to be stoked up with scientific pabulum. . . .

"Well then, you ask, what is my remedy? My remedy consists simply in stiffening up the entrance examination. I hold that there ought to be a rough sieve applied at the very beginning and that all who cannot get through this sieve should be cast on one side. As things stand at present any man who gets through an entrance examination will ultimately get a qualification of some kind which will enable him to put "Doctor" on his door plate, with just as much effect as a graduate in honours of the London University. You cannot hinder him from this by any amount of scientific or professional examinations. He will rub through these bit by bit. Any teacher will tell you how futile it is to attempt to turn back a man who has once passed an entrance examination, if that man is determined to go on. Besides, it seems to me unfair to allow an inferior man to enter upon a course of professional studies for which he is obviously unfitted. He ought not to be allowed to get so far. He should be turned back at the very commencement, and not encouraged to throw away years on unavailing work. It has been said that if only those who have had a really good preliminary education are to be allowed to enter the profession, you may keep back many poor but struggling geniuses, who might afterward make great names for themselves. Well, there would be reason in this argument if we were in want of men to join our ranks, but when our object is to keep out applicants, the persons to be kept out are the badly educated, underbred ones. They will be far happier as decent tradesmen, in positions where their manners and their ways of thinking will not be out of place. When admitted among us they simply hold us down and the few heaven-born geniuses among them would never be missed." To secure uniformity Mr. Banks thinks the entrance examination should be under the control or inspection of the General Medical Council.

And if we are to have a General Medical Council of education, examination and registration for the Dominion—a consummation devoutly to be wished, and which your deliberations and endeavours at this session may almost make an accomplished fact—which Dr. Roddick's