

profession strictly self governed." Should the medical profession approach the Legislature with any degree of unanimity, asking for material alterations in the Medical Act, no doubt their wishes would demand attention, and the Legislature would be bound to consider how far they might be acceded to, having due regard to the rights and interests of all parties concerned. The first and most important of these interests are those of the general public outside of the profession. Then there follow to be considered, the rights and interests of the general medical profession; the rights and interests of the homœopathic section of the profession; the rights and interests of the universities, and the rights and interests of the medical colleges and the medical students.

All these matters were carefully weighed when the present legislation was enacted and they will all require to be carefully reconsidered. It is probable that a moderate increase in the number of territorial representatives might be made without serious danger to any of the several interests above named, but any material change beyond that would be at least dangerous and probably injurious to every one of those interests.

Whatever may be said as to other professions or occupations or trades, it is clearly not in the interests of the general public that the medical profession should be handed over entirely to itself, with power to convert itself into a close corporation or monopoly, to make it difficult or nearly impossible to obtain access to its ranks.

That the interest of the general profession itself would be served by disturbing the present Medical Act, is more than doubtful. There is perhaps no country in the world where the profession is in a better position than it is in Ontario. We have received a valuable franchise from the public and are taxed nothing for it. Some of us even object to pay towards the current expenses of the profession a paltry two dollars—less than a cabman has to pay for driving his hack—and it is proposed to go to the Legislature about it. Dr. Williams, in his address to the Council in June last, said that when you go to the Legislature for something you do not know exactly what you will bring away. It might occur, for instance, to Sir Oliver Mowat, if the profession applies for a larger franchise, to ask them to contribute a trifle to the public purse. This is

done in other places, as recently in North Carolina, where the medical profession were each asked to contribute \$25 per annum, in consideration of the valuable privileges granted them. I wonder what kind of a fit the representatives of the Medical Defence Association would have if they found some provision of this kind in their amended Medical Act.

Then, as to the interests of the homœopathic section of the profession. They made large concessions, and received certain guarantees. Does anyone in the general profession wish to open up that difficult matter again? Are the homœopaths prepared to assent to the proposals of the Medical Defence Association? The circular of the Association states that they now co-operate with the schoolmen on the Council.

The universities and the medical schools have no issue with the homœopaths, the general profession have an issue. Are the homœopaths ready to hand themselves over to the tender mercies of the general profession, or will they ask to be reinstated with their old licensing power? It will be well for the general profession to consider these points.

There would also have to be considered the rights and interests of the universities. Anyone reading the circular of the Medical Defence Association, who was not cognizant of the facts, would suppose that the medical profession had formerly possessed entire control of medical education, licensing, etc., that the limited powers the universities now have, had been "held for the last twenty years on sufferance," that these powers had been "usurped by them," that they had "intruded" themselves where they had no right, that they were "occupying an intolerable position," were "treating a noble profession ungenerously," etc.

Now, there is probably not one in a hundred of the medical profession in Ontario who does not know that all this is directly opposite to the facts. They know that prior to the formation of the Medical Council, the profession never had any voice whatever in medical education or licensing.

Beginning in about 1820, the Act, 59 George III., provided that the persons entitled to practise were those "duly authorized by any university in His Majesty's dominions, or those licensed by the