

It is quite possible, of course, for a man, immediately after his graduation, to attempt to specialize in this or in other departments, but it will be impossible for him to convince his colleagues or other members of the profession that he has any special qualifications for such specialty; and as he is dependent on these men for his practice it largely prevents such an occurrence taking place.

Another safeguard in the same direction is the fact that in order to get recognition in a special branch a man must become a member of some organization that is comprised of a number of men practising the same specialty. For instance, if one wishes to be recognized as a first-rate orthopedic surgeon he must almost necessarily become a member of the American Orthopedic Association; and in order to secure membership in such an association he must have practised for five years after graduation and have shown himself to have attained scientific eminence in this special branch. He must produce evidence of such attainments. He must have a high standing among his colleagues in the section in which he lives. He must have published a series of articles on this special branch of a distinct type such as will pass the members of the Standing Committee.

Such safeguards as these, your Lordship, make it impossible that a man should attempt to practise a specialty without proper qualifications, and safeguard the public without special legislation.

The Commissioner: Is there any such association as you speak of in Canada, Dr. Starr?

Dr. Starr: There is none in Canada, your Lordship, because there are practically very few men practising this department of medicine here. Most of us in Canada who are practising this particular branch of surgery are associated with the American Orthopedic Association, as we find it to our advantage to mingle with our confreres across there in order that we may get the benefits of the work being done by them owing to their increased facilities.

Q. That association is composed of physicians who are practising orthopedic surgery?

A. Yes; in Canada and the United States.

Q. Does it prescribe a course?

A. No.

Q. Does it examine?