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EQUALIZED REPRESENTATION IN THE ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

Now that the representation of the Eclectic members of the Medical Council has lapsed by the efflux of time, viz., five years from the passing of the Consolidated Medical Act, assented to March 24th, 1874, it is in order once more to discuss the propriety of increased representation of the general profession on the Council Board. As matters stand at present there are 8 representatives of colleges on the Council, 5 homœopathists, and 12 members of the general profession. About one-third of the members of the Council are representatives of Colleges, one-fifth represent about 50 homœopathic practitioners, and the remaining 12 represent about 1700 general practitioners. Surely no one looking at those figures, but will admit that the representation is very unequally divided.

We will not allude to what has been done on more than one occasion, by the combination of the school-men with the homœopaths and eclectics. Our object is simply to deal with the question of increased representation on its own merits. We are anxious to have the general medical profession more in sympathy with the Council, and we see no better way than to give it a larger share of representation. The territorial divisions, which are the same as the old electoral divisions for representatives on the Senate, are in some instances excessively large, embracing two or three counties, and it is impossible for representatives to represent satisfactorily such large constituencies. There should at least be two members for each division, elected conjointly, or each elected to represent one half of the constituency. The period of time for which each member is elected should also be shortened

from five to three years. This would bring candidates more frequently before their constituents, and be the means of infusing more life and activity into the council and create a deeper interest in its proceedings. The action of the representatives should be more closely watched, and the interest of the profession more carefully looked after.

The only objection that can be successfully urged against increased representation is the increased expense, which would be incurred. The same parties however who urge this objection most strongly are themselves spending hundreds of dollars every year in lawyer's fees, sundry meetings of the executive committee, trips to Ottawa and such like, which might be saved by the exercise of a little more caution and economy on the part of the council board. The question of increased expense, however, is not so great an objection as at first sight might appear. The five representatives of the eclectic body having ceased, there would in reality be only *seven* new members added to the number lately constituting the board. Even this number is small when compared with the Board of Governors, consisting of forty members, of the sister institution in Quebec which has a much smaller medical population. The mere matter of a trifling additional expense, however, should not be allowed to prevent the carrying out of a policy which is certain to be for the best interests of both the profession and the council. It must also be remembered that the profession contributes, either directly or indirectly the greater portion of the funds of the council and should on that account have a larger voice in its expenditure. We have no doubt the proposition to increase the territorial representation will be strenuously opposed in some quarters, but that is no reason why, if the principle be correct, it should not ultimately prevail. The equalization of the representation of the different bodies on the medical council may be accomplished in either of two ways, viz. by increasing the number of territorial representatives as we have proposed, or by diminishing the number of University and homœopathic representatives on the present board. The number of homœopathic representatives is out of all proportion to the number of practitioners of that school in the province, and the representatives of those Universities having no medical department might be left off altogether. Three members would be quite sufficient to re-