

MEDICAL LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

It may open the eyes of some of the noisy lay advocates in Canada of what is called "free trade in medicine," to know that in the United States, where the utmost freedom in medical practice has been allowed, this system, or rather want of system, is found to work badly in the interests of the public. In several of the States the want of safety and want of protection conferred by so loose a law has led to a desire to adopt old-world notions on this head,—so that they are coming by progress of time and experience to the very standpoint which certain newspaper champions of a medical sect in this Province would have us depart from in order to suit the heat and bent of their views, excited by the failure of the homœopathic bill. In Kentucky, State Boards of Medical Examiners have been appointed in different districts, before which all authorized practitioners must appear and pass an examination. In North Carolina a much similar law has lately come into force, so that restrictions before unknown are now coming into operation in those States. A movement in the same direction may be discerned in the several pharmacy acts which have latterly been passed in different States, intended to secure proper qualifications in druggists and the dispensers of medicine. In fine, the Americans have discovered through the force of actual facts and a bitter experience, that protection to human life requires the institution of legal restrictions upon the practice of medicine. Independently of other arguments, the tendency noticeable in the United States is a good justification of medical law in Ontario, so recently attacked by a few enemies.

The body is *domicilium animo*, her house, abode and stay; and as a torch gives a better light, a sweeter smell, according to the matter it is made of, so doth our soul perform all her actions better or worse, as her organs are disposed; or as wine savours of the cask wherein it is kept, the soul receives a tincture from the body through which it works.—BURTON'S ANATOMY OF MELANCHOLY.

The crowning fortune of a man is to be born with a bias to some pursuit, which finds him in employment and happiness.—R. W. EMERSON.

MEETING OF THE PROFESSION IN CARLETON PLACE.—A meeting of the medical profession of the Bathurst and Rideau division was held at Carleton Place, on the 14th ult. Dr. Grant, the representative of the Division in the Medical Council, took the chair and delivered an able address. The following gentlemen were present: Drs. Grant, Hill, Beaubien, Van Cortland, Lynn, Leggo, Church, Wright, Corbett, Malloch, Wilson, McEwen, Bogart, Bell, Dickson, Mostyn, Patterson, McFarlane, Preston, Howden, Kellock, Anderson, Chambers, Pickup, Burns, Mann, O'Brien, Giles, and Beaty. Dr. W. R. Bell was appointed Secretary. The chairman in his remarks referred to the passage of Baxter's Bill by the local legislature; the defeat of the Homœopathic Bill; and the great benefit which has resulted from the union of the various medical bodies, although in a measure contrary to the ideas held by many members of the profession. He also touched upon sanitary matters, and concluded by an eloquent reference to the illustrious dead, mentioning in particular Sir Henry Holland and Dr. Livingstone.

The main object of the meeting was to arrange a tariff, to be submitted to the Ontario Medical Council at its next session, in order to receive approval as a "*scale of reasonable charges*."

Moved by Dr. Patterson, and seconded by Dr. Hill, that we constitute ourselves into a territorial association, to be styled "The Bathurst and Rideau Medical Association."—*Carried*.

The following gentlemen were then appointed to the various offices,—Dr. Grant, President, *ex-officio*; Dr. Giles, first vice-President; Dr. Pickup, second vice-President; Dr. Hill, Treasurer; Dr. Lynn, Secretary; Drs. Dickson, Mann, Mostyn, Howden, Beaty, Preston, Beaubien, Leggo and Church, Executive Committee.

The subject of a uniform tariff of fees was then brought up, and committees were appointed to draw up a tariff for the rural district, and also for the City of Ottawa. A committee was also appointed to frame a constitution and bye-laws for the Association. After a vote of thanks to the President, the meeting adjourned to meet again on the 14th of August next. The proceedings terminated with a lunch at the Mississippi Hotel, by invitation of the President.

Be what Nature intended you for, and you will succeed; be anything else, and you will be ten thousand times worse than nothing.—SYDNEY SMITH.