

qualified. Many of these men had come to this colony, and with others already here demand nothing but what they had a right to expect, and they were opposed by the Hon. President of the Council! If Hon. gentlemen thought it was really desirable to admit old women to the practise of medicine, and practise of midwifery, he could propose it when the house went into Committee, and there could be no doubt that it would be carried.— He hoped Hon. gentlemen would not consent to the proposition of the Hon. member for giving the Bill a six months hoist, as it would in reality be a declaration that the medical profession had no right to expect protection at their hands; but they would rather aid him in making it as perfect a possible in its details in Committee.

Mr. RICHARDS was opposed to the bill for various reasons. It appeared to him that the bill was not calculated to give the medical profession protection, so much as the power of punishing particular parties. The process of prosecuting at present, it appeared was too tedious, and in order to satisfy the profession, it was necessary to give them the power of laying the question before a magistrate, who could at once sentence the unlicensed practitioner to a fine of £5, and send him to prison. The Hon. member for Toronto had called on them to follow English practice. If the Hon. gentlemen would refer to the Medical Review he would find that the law for the protection of the medical profession had given general dissatisfaction at home, and had made the colleges of surgeons in Scotland exceedingly unpopular, and the effect here would be exactly similar. The Hon. member appeared to be ignorant of the fact, that in those States where protective laws had existed, they have been repealed, whilst in others there never were any, and it was generally admitted that since the abolition of those laws, the regular practitioners had obtained a larger share of practice, and been able to take a higher stand, when the quacks have been deprived of the sympathy which people had for them, then when they were liable to prosecution under the protective laws. He was opposed to the bill, also, because it would deprive sick people in the back country, where the population is spreading, and where it would be impossible to procure the services of a regular practitioner, of the only medical assistance within its reach. He was also opposed to the bill, because a large number of the medical profession did not wish it to pass he should therefore support the amendment.

The amendment was then put—Yeas 22; Nays 28.

Mr. MERRITT replied to the member for Toronto. He had asked what was the use of Colleges, &c. unless these privileges were granted to those who studied there. That was easier asked than answered; but those

studies gave the gentlemen great advantages, and they had besides the right of incorporation, but now they wanted something in the way of privilege that no other person had. If carpenters or masons came before the House to demand such privileges as to exclude competition, it would be thought monstrous; why should the learned professions have a monopoly? He would occupy more time, but hoped the privilege granted would be as limited as possible.

Mr. WILSON would vote against the bill because these privileges were more detrimental than otherwise to the profession. He had known two neighborhoods in which quacks were indicted by medical men, and the feeling was so strong against the prosecutions that the medical men were driven out, whereas had they trusted to their superior abilities, derived from education, they would have driven the quacks out.

Mr. LYON was at first disposed to vote against the Bill, but found that the Hon. member for Toronto was willing to alter the parts found to be objectionable.

Mr. SMITH (Durham) remarked that the present Bill was more stringent than the old law, inasmuch as the offence under the latter consisted in the quack having acted for hire and gain. The present bill made it a crime to do so under any circumstances. If it passed there would be plenty of informers.

Mr. MCCOMMEL opposed the bill, because it was a sort of second edition of the medical bill in Lower Canada—the most unpopular bill which had ever been passed. The 10th clause would exclude the women, now he had once been given up by the doctors and cured by an old lady.

Dr. BEAUBIEN desired no other protection for the medical profession than good colleges and good professors. But it was proposed by this bill to bring the student before the college and make him pay fees for the members, without on their side being obliged to furnish any instruction. He did not want any exceptional laws for the medical profession: let the profession here form schools of medicine like the College of Surgeons of London, or the Royal College of Paris.

Mr. MORRISON opposed the bill, for he believed the medical profession did not wish it to pass; first, because it was not good; second because it would put them into antagonism with the people of the province. The people were jealous of these privileges. He was glad to hear the remarks of the Hon. President of the Council, and sorry to hear those of the Attorney General. He desired if the bill were not to pass, that it should be thrown out at once, and lose no time.

The discussion was afterwards continued to a great length; but without bringing out any new arrangement against the measure.

Dr. LATERRIERIE said, it appeared there

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