

crowding consequent upon a low standard of general and professional education, or the absence of any standard worthy of the name. In the United States there is one doctor (so called) to every 600 of the population, and Illinois has its full quota, although it has rid itself, through the aid of recent legislation, of a large number of its quacks. The better element, under the new law, is forcing quackery into the background, and as a consequence we may safely assume, the most incompetent find themselves in desperate straits as the people become informed, and as medical men in increasing numbers become better educated, both in a literary and professional sense, so as to take a higher stand—not only professionally, but socially as well—the harder will be the lot of the poorly qualified and the mere charlatan. Perhaps, after all, it is better for society that these should continue the process of self-destruction than go on taking the lives of others.

The profession in Ontario, no less than the people at large, have much to be thankful for. Here no one can publicly practice who has not been found qualified after strict examination. This examination is not made by distinct schools, colleges or authorities, but by appointment of a central and independent authority called the Medical Council. This Council not being the creation, and hence not the creature of any existing authority save the law that constituted it, but a true representation of the profession by fair and open election, and as it is clothed with unlimited power, both as to the preliminary and final fitness of candidates, no one need fear that the standard will ever be too low or that the ranks will ever become much more crowded than they are. When undue overcrowding does take place, the remedy lies in raising the standard, and this power lies in the Council. No country can show brighter, better educated, or more able men in all respects, than the United States of America, yet, owing to imperfect laws, or the absence of all law, no country is so overrun with uneducated and half-educated doctors. Year by year the lot of the mere pretender will become harder and harder. All over the Union restrictive laws are fast replacing "free trade," and everywhere education and professional skill are becoming more and more in demand.

In view of these and other facts which might be mentioned, it is the duty of every one of us to

stand firmly by our privileges, to hold them fast, and to support our representatives in the performance of their duties by a cheerful compliance with the reasonable demands made upon us. The medical men of any State in the Union, would only be too glad to tax themselves ten times the amount asked of us for like privileges and immunities.

CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—We would specially direct our reader's attention to the notice of meeting of the Canada Medical Association in our advertising pages. It will be seen that on application to the general secretary, Dr. Stewart of Montreal, all regular members of the profession will be furnished with certificates entitling them to purchase tickets at reduced railway rates. We are pleased to learn that the number of papers already promised is a sufficient guarantee that the Chatham meeting will fully equal its predecessors not only in the number, but also in the high value of its communications. The following are the officers of the Association—President, Dr. Osler of Philadelphia; General Secretary, Dr. James Stewart, Montreal; Treasurer, Dr. Charles Sheard, Toronto; Vice-Presidents, Drs. Bray of Chatham, George Ross of Montreal, Allison of St. John, Fraser of Windsor and Whiteford of Winnipeg. Local Secretaries, Drs. Burt of Paris, Bell of Montreal, Walker of St. John, Almon of Halifax, and Mewburn of Winnipeg.

COCAINE IN HAY-FEVER.—Now that the season for hay-fever is upon us it may not be out of place to state that great benefit has been obtained by a number of observers from the use of cocaine. Among others Dr. Watson of the Westminster Hospital, London, Eng., gives an account in the *Lancet* for July 4th, of the benefit obtained by him from the use of tablets of cocaine. The tablet which contains $\frac{1}{6}$ of a grain of muriate of cocaine is moistened in the mouth and one introduced into each nostril. They adhere without difficulty and give immediate and complete relief. Menthol in alcohol solution has been used by some as a substitute for cocaine, but is not so lasting in its effect.

CHOLERA INOCULATION.—The French commission has returned home disgusted with Dr. Ferràn's inoculation experiments. He positively refused to allow the commission to carry off a single bit of vaccine matter, or to make known his method of