

Upper Canada, afterwards the Province of Ontario, culminating in the laws under which we are now governed, was for the purpose of affording protection to the individual and the community from unskilled, ignorant medical practitioners and quacks, by whom the country was overrun at an early period in the history of the Province. So much was this the case that there was a public outcry and demand for protective legislation. To substantiate these statements, may I submit the following:

"The Medical Profession in Upper Canada, Canniff, p. 26—
Extract from an article contributed by the late Bishop Strachan, 1812:

"The Province is overrun with self-made physicians who have no pretensions to knowledge of any kind, and yet there is no profession that requires more extensive information. They comprehend not the causes or nature of disease, are totally ignorant of anatomy, chemistry and botany; many know nothing of classical learning or general science. Where shall you find *one* among them attending particularly to the age, constitution and circumstances of the patient, and varying his prescriptions accordingly. It is indeed preposterous to expect judgment and skill, a nice discrimination of diseases, or a proper method of cure from men who have never been regularly taught, who cannot pronounce, much less explain, the terms of the art they profess, and who are unable to read the books written upon the subject. The welfare of the people calls aloud for some legislative provision that shall remedy this increasing evil; and examination, however slight, would terrify nine-tenths of the present race."

A type of practitioner commonly found at this period is exemplified by the following extracts:

"Richmond, October 17, 1817—Advertisement—This is to certify that I, Solomon Albert, is Good to cure any sore, or any Complaint or any Pains, Rheumaticks Pains, or any Complaint what so ever the subscriber doctors with yerbs or Roots. Any person wishing to employ him will find him at Dick Bells. (Signed) Solomon Albert.

Page 28—"That illiterate and incompetent persons found their way into Upper Canada during the first fifteen years of this century may be gathered from letters which appeared in the *Kingston Gazette*. In the *Gazette* of June 2nd, 1812, is a letter from Gananoque, signed 'Candidus,' giving a copy of an account sent to Mrs. John Gould by a 'self-taught physician of this province'— 'The estate of Mrs. J. Gould Dr. To dr. for medsin and attendants whene he was choked with a large peas of butter no meat £3. A second letter, signed 'Credulus' refers to 'certain medical gentlemen who have out of pure charity come into this country from the neighbouring States to cure us of all our maladies.' They do not use opium, or calomel, but charms. He gives an account of the treatment of a tumour by stroking and using certain words to drive away 'the devil's swelling.' A third letter is about a shoemaker who went where unknown to practise and who being called to see a case of dropsy pronounced it pleurisy, and declared that 'fleglotomy' was demanded to reduce the body to natural size; but on being exposed took a hasty departure.

"A fourth letter refers to a bill sent in by a doctor, with a deduction of £6 for 'killing your son.' This was because the doctor had carried the smallpox to the son, who died of it.

"The following is an indication that at Kingston in 1815 the more intelligent public saw the necessity of protection against incompetent men. The *Kingston Gazette* contains the following: