

what may be deemed the *principle* of the measure, and are of high importance, inasmuch as they directly bear on the preliminary education of those who design to enter the Profession, and which, if carried out in their full spirit, cannot fail to elevate its character throughout the Province. Far be it from us to undervalue the pretensions to more than mere respectability to which the medical profession may justly even now lay claim; far less would we insinuate aught against those junior members of it, who have received their licenses from the medical boards within the last ten years, during which no legal enactment directed their studies in a proper channel, or compelled the fulfilment of a prescribed *curriculum*. We cannot however but observe, that this want of Legislative interference has been the occasion of serious evils; for although some did give ample evidence of having prosecuted their studies in a proper manner, a large proportion, in a conscious freedom from control thereby engendered, obtained their knowledge, at the best but superficial, through other channels, in accordance with the dictates of their fancy or caprice. The fact which we announce may elsewhere excite surprise, but it is a question to whom the greater blame should attach, the individuals who have profited by the temptation of easily obtaining medical licenses, or the government which has permitted it.

That the character of the Profession is closely dependant upon the education of its members, is a question which few will dispute; and that the degree of its elevation will be commensurate with its scale of professional knowledge, none we apprehend will deny: and while it will be admitted that almost any compulsory system of education, however limited it may be, is better than none, it is an object of no small magnitude, in dealing with such a subject, to proportion it justly and directly to the necessities of the case. In this Province which is comparatively speaking a new one, whose population is small, and the pecuniary resources of the inhabitants not over ample, nothing beyond a medium course of preliminary education should be insisted on: it should be the duty of the government, to avoid the two extremes, on the one hand of an inefficient course of study, because insufficient to the end in view; and on the other, of one too ornamental, because in all its parts not *absolutely* necessary. We would have every aspirant to the Profession, know every *essential* part, and know it well. In these observations, however, it will be recollected, that the Legislation is intended for the Licentiates of the Medical Boards, in preparing for which a thorough knowledge of the practical branches only of the Profes-

sion should be demanded, while we would leave to those who are solicitous of University honours, the prosecution of the more extended *curriculum* prescribed by the colleges on that behalf.

Filling up the blanks in the two educational clauses of the Bill, and correcting what is an obvious error, the classification of Practical Anatomy and Clinical Medicine and Surgery with the *lectures* on the other branches of Medical Science enjoined, the duration of the courses of which is specified, the *curriculum* of the Medical Boards will stand as follows:

That the candidate is at least 17 years of age, that he has received a liberal education; and that he possesses a competent knowledge of the classics.

Satisfactory proof of these is to be afforded to the Medical Boards, *at the time of commencing his studies*, which are then to extend over a period of four years, at the expiration of which he is to furnish testimonials of attendance on the following branches of medical education, taught at a University College or Incorporated school of medicine, in attendance on which two out of the four years of study at the least are to be occupied.

Anatomy and Physiology;	} Two courses of each. The courses to continue for six months; the number of lectures in each course 120; and each lecture of one hours duration.
Chemistry and Pharmacy;	
Materia Medica;	
Theory and practice of Physic;	
Principles and practice of Surgery;	
Midwifery and diseases of women and children.	

Clinical Medicine and Surgery—Two courses.

Practical Anatomy—Two courses.

Hospital attendance—one year.

In this schedule we have purposely detached Clinical Medicine and Surgery, and Practical Anatomy from the other branches, because, although the courses of the first may extend over a period of six months, yet the number of lectures during the week seldom exceeds, in British schools of medicine, two or three, thus reducing their number considerably within that of the other courses, and lectures on Practical Anatomy are no where delivered; these errors, however are venial, and admit of easy correction. We think that it might be still further improved by demanding of the candidate proof of having attended at least a certain number of cases of Midwifery.

The third clause, however, contains two provisos, one of which has a retroactive influence, and bears upon students who have commenced their studies within two years and a half before the passing of the act, who are by it compelled to follow one of the courses of lectures above specified. Although from principle we are opposed to retroactive Legislation, cases do some-