

the kind would be as thick as bees in a swarming, and, although doing no good at all, would soon take the cash—as they only work for cash down—and the poor, properly constituted medical man would have to do his own work with a very poor chance of being paid. The Council at the present time is doing a great deal to keep down such people, and we certainly think credit should be given for the work. We will enlarge on this point no further, leaving it to the justice, so amply found among medical men, to bear us out.

2. *Protection of the Public.* Here, if the people only knew it, a very great good is done by supplying to them only properly registered practitioners. Every man likes skilled labour if it can be got for a job he is to have done, and the Council does its best to give them their desires. By keeping out all others they save lives: they save time; and, what is almost as efficient, they save money to the public. Of course it goes without saying that the service is not absolutely perfect, as the "Oi Polloi" are, as a rule, too easily gulled. We know, personally, of one case where a fakir—the seventh son of the seventh son—made quite a sum by the sale of "The Oil of the White Fawn," obtainable only by him, etc., the said oil being nothing more than white vaseline, bought from a town druggist, and sold at one and two dollars per ounce box. In spite of this sort of thing, which will happen occasionally, till the vendor is stopped by the Council, all, or practically all, are kept out of our road, and save our people's health.

3. *Maintenance of the Standard of Education.* This will require very few remarks. With the colleges free and in competition, the advantage of a check on them is plain. They cannot bid by low standards for more pupils as then they cannot fulfil the requirements of the law. It is not so very long ago that many got through in three and even two years by getting certified for certain lectures, and getting through on them. No such thing can occur now. We think the system of examination by number is the best at present used, neither the student knowing his number nor the examiner the name.

Before closing we would request a comparison between the Council and other closed corporations with reference both to fees and to advantages, at

the same time looking at the powers held by law by the others.

#### PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

How to prevent disease is a study which to-day has become one of the most important, if not the most important, to which the attention of the physician is directed. Medical societies everywhere are considering the question, and giving it the prominent place it deserves among the subjects which properly come up for their consideration. The New York Academy of Medicine, the Philadelphia College of Physicians and the Toronto Medical Society may be mentioned among those which have given attention to the matter. There is practical agreement as to the great importance of legislative enactments, requiring the isolation and registration of all cases of such diseases as diphtheria, typhoid and scarlet fever, etc.; but how far legislation should go in seeking the prevention of tuberculosis is a disputed question. Much could be done by legislation without any hardship to individuals to prevent the consumption of tubercular meat by thorough inspection of our herds, and of the meat as exposed for sale, by keeping a close watch over our dairies and our milk supply. Hotels, steamboats, railway-carriages, and all public conveyances should be thoroughly inspected and proper regulations insisted on that would ensure entire destruction of all germs of disease. But the germs of consumption are so numerous and so constantly present that some more efficient means must be used against them.

Is that to be found in the means that may be used by a Medical Health Board? We think not, unless every individual suffering from consumption be shut up in an isolation hospital. That is something which would not be tolerated in our present stage of civilization, for in the case of many it would mean years of restraint. Probably nothing further could be done in this direction than to establish isolation hospitals where those consumptives might be cared for whose homes could not supply them with suitable care.

Information should be systematically given by means of circulars that the disease is contagious, and that it can be largely prevented by simple measures of disinfection. More than all the physician must impress upon his patients and their