

may be a truer and better council than we have ever had, and one that shall more justly represent the profession.

The Medical Act protects and benefits to a greater or less extent three different interests: 1st, the medical schools; 2nd, the public, and 3rd, the profession. The first class, or the colleges, derive the greatest benefit. So great, indeed, is the protection afforded to them, that they may be said to have an almost complete monopoly of medical education for this province, and students who intend to practice in this province, and who consequently must pass the examinations of the Council, know well the advantages which Ontario College students possess over those educated outside the province. Then each College and University is entitled to send a representative to the Council to look after its interests, and this representative receives per diem, travelling and hotel allowances out of the funds of the Council, to which funds neither the universities nor colleges have ever contributed one dollar. Now, as all medical colleges are owned by private individuals or corporations who conduct them for their own personal gain, and on business principles, entirely devoid of philanthropy or benevolence, it seems most unfair that they should derive all these advantages without paying their proportionate share of the expenses.

The second class benefited by the Act is the public. The Act prohibits all unqualified men from practising in this province. Thus, the public are protected from the ravages of quacks and charlatans, and are assured that all who represent themselves as physicians are duly qualified. In fact it is doubtful if, in any other province or country in the world, the average standard of ability, of the profession in this province, can be equalled, let alone surpassed. For these advantages the public contribute nothing.

The third class to which we have

referred is the profession. It contains two sub-divisions, first, the regular profession containing about 2,100 members, with twelve representatives in the Council, or an average of one representative to one hundred and seventy-five members, and second, the homœopathsists, with about fifty members and five representatives in the Council, or one representative to every ten members—a most unfair distribution, the homœopathsists being represented seventeen and one-half times more largely than the regular profession.

The advantages which the regular profession derive from the Act are quite incidental. All its members have been compelled to submit to a long and laborious course of study, occupying many of the best years of early manhood, followed by an exacting series of examinations, and necessitating a large expenditure of money, before obtaining a licence qualifying them to practise. They then enter the ranks of an overcrowded profession, and struggle to exist. The Act protects them from competition with unqualified men, it is true, but the number of qualified men is so great, and even among them, are found a few, who are well versed in the tactics of empirics, that the result is, that the actual protection or benefit to regular men from the Act is almost infinitesimal. But there is one privilege which the members of the regular profession do possess, and that is the privilege of contributing almost every dollar that enters the exchequer of the Council. Before entering the profession, each candidate contributes \$100 in examination and registration fees, and thereafter a yearly tax of \$2.

I think the above fairly represents the relative advantages conferred by the Act on its different beneficiaries. Now, let us briefly look at another matter. The Council at present consists of twenty-six representatives, twelve representing the general profession, nine representing the colleges, and five representing the homœ-