

the profession to which I wish to direct your attention are (1) the organized profession ; (2) the medical school ; and (3) the medical society.

1. *The organized profession.*—In a well-arranged community a citizen should feel that he can at any time command the services of a man who has received a fair training in the science and art of medicine, into whose hands he may commit with safety the lives of those near and dear to him. For the State to regulate and determine the individuals to whom the citizen may apply, is not by most persons thought unreasonable. There are those, however, who would have no restrictions, but allow the utmost freedom and permit assumption and assurance to have full sway, and give to any man without education the right to practice medicine. This has never been the case in Canada. The men who came here in the early days to practise medicine were chiefly English and Scotch licentiates, who brought with them the traditions and customs of the profession in Great Britain. Very many of them were army surgeons, accustomed by long training to system and discipline. Without medical schools, the only recourse for a young man wishing to enter the profession was either to cross the ocean or to serve an apprenticeship with and receive instruction from a practitioner. Boards for the inspection of diplomas of men coming from outside the country and for the examination of the young men who had passed the necessary time with local preceptors were organized in the old Province of Quebec in 1788, and in Upper Canada in 1815—dates ever to be memorable in the history of medicine in this country.

It is a common experience that men do not always appreciate their blessings and advantages. Those who are the best off are the least sensible of it. I have often thought this of the profession in Canada in relation to the Medical Boards, when I have heard murmurs of discontent. As they constitute a special feature in the Canadian medical system, you will allow me to refer to their origin and functions at some length. Primarily, the Medical Board is simply a Bureau of Registration appointed by the State, as, in fact, the British Medical Council is to-day ; but here, at an early period, before the establishment of schools