

And I cannot omit mention of the second president of this association, also a Nova Scotian, and the ablest practitioner in the province, chosen for that place of honor because of his sterling character, public spirit and successful professional career, one who fortunately is still with us, an inspiring influence for all that is noble and good—I refer, of, course, to the Hon. Dr. Parker.

In the same year, 1867, the Medical Society of Nova Scotia was reorganized. Up to that time the society had held all its meetings in Halifax. It was then decided to hold the annual meetings at different points in the province, with the view of securing the more hearty co-operation of members in the various parts of the country.

In 1867, also, a medical school was founded in Halifax in connection with Dalhousie College. At first nothing more than a short preparatory course, during the summer months, was aimed at. The venture met with success, and in 1870 it was decided to establish a full course of study and to confer degrees.

Before considering the Medical Act of 1872, mention may be made of some minor events which have resulted in good. The Nova Scotia branch of the British Medical Association, formed in 1887, which meets at Halifax during the winter months, and the Maritime Medical Association, formed in 1891, which holds its annual meeting alternately in the three capitals of the Maritime Provinces, have greatly promoted harmony and good feeling, as well as mutual improvement. The *Maritime Medical News*, founded in 1888, has been of material benefit to the various associations by preserving in an accessible form a record of their proceedings, and of their more valuable contributions.

The medical legislation in 1872 is of so much importance that I trust you will pardon me for giving an account of various steps leading to it. By medical legislation I mean, of course, enactments designed to regulate the study and practice of medicine, it being generally conceded that the state has full power in this respect.

The first step was taken while the military element in the profession predominated, and was perhaps suggested by the Medical Acts of Upper and Lower Canada. The Medical Act of 1828 is very brief, and is entitled, "An Act to Exclude Ignorant and Unskilful Persons from the Practice of Physic and Surgery." Its substance is as follows: No person shall demand or recover any fee or award for medical or surgical aid unless he has a diploma from some college legally author-