

absorption of the putrescent menses in the sac of the vagina, and consequent pyæmia, is a question very difficult to answer.

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MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

In almost all well-governed countries there is in existence a law which requires that persons who are about to practice medicine or surgery, shall present evidence to the government of their qualifications as physicians or surgeons. Such a law demands that the intending practitioner shall present to the government his qualifications, which are submitted for examination to a licensing body, and, if found to be all that the law requires, are registered; and only such persons as are registered are allowed to practise.

All countries do not demand the same qualifications. Some require that the intending practitioner should hold a diploma from one of their own colleges, others only ask that he should have a diploma or license from some medical school whose curriculum comes up to their own standard established by law. All are agreed, however, in requiring that the intending practitioner shall furnish undeniable evidence of having qualified himself for practice, by having spent a sufficient length of time in attendance upon college lectures and hospitals, having commenced his studies with a good preliminary education.

The object of a Medical Registration Act is two-fold; first, to secure good education in the regular physician, secondly, to prevent quacks and charlatans from practising. We believe that the last object is more than half secured by the first; for if the public are certain that their physicians and surgeons have received a good education and "understand their business," quackery would soon be at a discount. The most enthusiastic admirers of seventh sons and natural bone-setters, may assert that "the doctors" cannot cure this or that disease, in other words cannot make a man live forever; but they must acknowledge that one who has made the study of physiology and pathology a

work of years, and whose mind is stored with knowledge which is the result of the labors of generations of scientific men, must know more of disease and the art of prolonging life than any one else. But badly educated medical men do not, and will not receive the confidence of the public. By the influence they exert upon the people they become the indirect cause of all the quackery which exists around them.

As it is now in Nova Scotia, it is only necessary for a young man to commence the study of medicine—it may be without a preliminary education to fit him for his work—spend a year or eighteen months at his studies, and he is enabled to obtain a diploma. The diploma is not usually any guarantee of his having studied a sufficient length of time, any of the branches of medical science, yet it entitles its holder to practise his profession in Nova Scotia, and also gives him the right to become a member of the Nova Scotia Medical Society. It is needless for us to say to medical men that such a diploma should not qualify a man to practise medicine.

The duties falling to the lot of medical men are onerous and varied. The investigation and treatment of diseases, which constitute a large part of their daily work, give them a guardianship over the health and lives of all members of the community. They may be called upon at any time to give evidence as experts in medico-legal questions. It is also a part of their duty to assist the government in hygienic or sanitary measures. Every part of this work has an influence, more or less directly, upon the welfare of the people, and it becomes the duty of the government to see that practitioners of medicine and surgery in the country are well educated, by demanding an examination of their qualifications before they are allowed to practise. There is a law upon the statute book of Nova Scotia relating to the practise of medicine and surgery in the Province, but it is worse than useless. It was probably the desire of our legislators to follow the example of Great Britain in framing it, with sufficient modification to suit Nova Scotia; but they did not succeed in making a law to resemble at all the Medical Act of Great Britain. We do not know when the act was passed here, but it is