

brains instead of money; by great economy he has been able to save enough money to bear his expenses while studying, and barely enough to pass himself through one term of lecturer; and he has seen proper to attend some eclectic or homœopathic institution, and he comes up before the same board for examination. No matter how well he may be informed, or how well he may stand the examination, this controlling majority of dyed-in-the-wool regulars have only to say "Your examination is not satisfactory, and this is the decision of this very regular board, and you can't practice medicine."

We will still further suppose that any one of this legislative body, who are now so very politely asked to vote for this very innocent measure, has a beautiful daughter who is surely but slowly wasting away under the professional care of a member of this same board; and also suppose that the young doctor and this legislator are old friends and neighbors. The young doctor sees the young lady and says to the father, "I have seen your daughter, I recognize her disease, I can cure her." Can he employ him? No, sir, he can not. He must abide by the decision of this same regular board, and they say this young man cannot practice, and if he does he is punishable with a fine not to exceed \$300 and perhaps incarcerated in jail not to exceed three months. This board says this young man cannot practice, and this same legislator finds himself caught in the toils, and he is denied the right to employ the physician of his choice in the last hours of his dear child.

And here allow me to repeat, that one of the most sacred rights of a free people is the right to choose who shall minister to their wants in the hour of sickness and death. In that hour when the life of the babe, the pet of the household; or of the husband, the support of the family; or the dear wife, or brother or sister, is despaired of, when quivering lips dare not speak the dread apprehension which crowds itself upon the memory, and tearful eyes look to the counselor, and breath the unspoken words, "What shall we do to save our darling?" then it is that you will see displayed the cloven foot of this very innocent, sweeping majority of five regulars who ask to be appointed upon this very innocent board. Five regulars to be appointed out of a board of seven! Herein is where they are delegated the powers to trample the rights of the people under foot.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Even should the eclectics and homœopaths receive the other two appointments, do you not see at a glance that they would be utterly powerless and would amount to mere figure-heads and unable to help themselves, and so far as any possible good they might be able to do, either school might as well be without a representative upon the board.

Now these are only a portion of the cloven footed deformities of this bill, and there are one or two others to which I wish to call your attention. One objection is that none but physicians holding diplomas from chartered medical colleges in good and regular standing—and, mind you, I quote verbatim from section 2 of this bill—are to

be admitted for examination, and when an eclectic or a homœopath presents himself, this sweeping majority has only to inform him that the college from which he holds a diploma is not considered regular and he can't have a license.

How kind it is of this board to only fleece each physician and surgeon in this whole Territory out of the small sum of \$25.00 and then further to be so very generous as to hand all the money collected in fees and fines (and by this you will readily infer that they intend to make some one smoke, and of course this would be the hated irregulars), over to the treasury of the Territory. Now is not this real kind? And did you notice still farther, after handing this vast revenue over with one hand, how nicely they immediately follow with the other hand and extract \$500 annually with which to pay the secretary and only \$5 a day and traveling expenses with which to pay each member of this board? By this nice little arrangement in case of any deficiency, which is not likely to occur under this exorbitant system of fees, the Territory will have to foot the bill, and make up the deficiency.

Why should every physician and surgeon in this whole Territory be commanded to throw up his hands and stand and deliver \$25 for the support of any medical board, no matter what its composition, let it be regular or irregular? Why not tax all the ministers or all the lawyers in this Territory, and, for instance, give a sweeping majority to the Methodists, or to the Jews, or to the Mormons, or to the Catholics, or Presbyterians; and how much of a show for justice do you suppose either sect would have who did not hold a controlling majority upon the board? Oh, no, gentlemen, this will not do! All fair-minded, liberty loving people would say at once this is class legislation of the worst type. I war not against the regulars or eclectics or homœopaths, but ask that they all shall have equal rights before the law. And thus the rights of the people will be kept sacred; no one sect or school will be legislated in to the detriment of those who are legislated out.

Before closing, allow me to pay a tribute of respect to all liberal minded, intelligent physicians, no matter of what school. And here allow me to do the regular school the justice to say that they have many good, great and grand men in their ranks, and I am not so prejudiced and narrow in my views as not to recognize worth wherever found. And there are many within the ranks of this school who are too honorable to ask any class legislation, and would be too proud to accept it; yet this does not preclude the fact that they constantly have such men in their ranks who do ask such things as in the present instance.

Why is it that the legislative hall of every State and Territory in the whole United States is annually and constantly being besieged by this same regular school for class legislation of which the foregoing bill is only a sample? And it is always under the same pretext, that of "weeding out the ignorant quacks and protecting the rights of the dear people." Does it not foreshadow an acknowledgment that they—the regulars—are afraid to cross

swords with those of other schools by a clinical test at the bedside? "Why," they say, "these irregulars are so very irregular that they in some way irregularly succeed in curing all their patients, and our best patients are fast leaving us and something must be done; we will give them a bad name; call them quacks, and make regular faces at them, and if this will not do, we will bolster up our cause by having ourselves legislated in and them out." And this is the way it goes, year after year, constantly knocking at the doors of all the legislative halls in the United States, asking that they—the regulars—be recognized as the only medical school.

Who ever heard of the eclectic or homœopath school asking any such unfair or class legislation in their favor? No one. They are willing to rest their case with the people, and allow the people—the only competent judges—to decide the merit of each at the bedside.

Finally, we appeal to the manhood, honor, justice and integrity of every member of the assembly of Utah, and of every fair-minded, thinking citizen to see to it that the fair escutcheon of our noble Territory is never stained by allowing such a bill as the one under consideration to disgrace its statutes.

F. M. IHRIG, M.D.

THE SOCIETY OF LOYAL VOLUNTEERS

It appears that a reaction against the indiscriminate granting of pensions to soldiers of the civil war is setting in. An organization entitled the Society of Loyal Volunteers is now in process of formation, for the purpose of arousing public opinion against abuses of the pension system. The founders are men whose war records stand in the first rank, and their object is to extend the society into the various States and counties of the Nation, and ascertain how many of the volunteer soldiers of the Union are antagonistic to the present pension methods.

The pension office is now issuing certificates at the rate of 30,000 a month. The law allows pension attorneys to collect \$10 for each claim they can obtain. This sum is deducted from the first payment on the pension. According to statistics, the sum of \$3,600,000 was paid last year to pension attorneys for successfully prosecuting claims. This sum came out of the money appropriated for pensions. In addition, fees to the amount of \$2,769,200 were paid to attorneys for the year ending June 30, 1891.

The prospectus issued by the Society of Loyal Volunteers is thoroughly explicit on its treatment of pensions. It opposes pensions to rich men and persons able to make a living, but advocates relief for all deserving soldiers in need of help. It claims that the loafers and malingerers who crowded the hospitals in war times under the pretense of sickness are now the persons most clamorous for pensions.

The Society will effect one good object if no other, that is, by the publication of figures relating to the present pension system public opinion will be awakened; and an inquiry may result which will have a beneficial effect on existing methods of pension distribution.