

Surgeons, on the part of a heart-broken and destitute widow with seven children, for assistance, whose husband, a well-known, respectable member of the profession, had been cut off from their further support in 1847, while filling up the gap in a time of sudden and imminent danger, then rendered vacant by several medical attendants at the Marine Hospital, and who had been incapacitated of continuing their services upon the many hundreds, I should say thousands, then labouring under the most subtle of contagious diseases, commonly called ship-fever, from having contracted it themselves. This case of the poor widow and orphans should have become an object of legislative provision, the more so, as shortly after, the widow of a provincial aid-de-camp, who had probably, from an over-self indulgence in those luxurious habits, which were then prohibited by the highest medical authorities in times of a most perilous epidemic, lost his life, and when, perhaps the most common means of sustenance were sparingly distributed by the wife of the devoted physician to her helpless children, yes, the widow of the provincial aid-de-camp who had, from various public and private resources, been at the receipt of, at times, \$6800 per annum, was granted a pension of \$800, and her children otherwise provided for by those who had often appreciated the kind and gracious salutations of the provincial aid-de-camp, while the widow of our self-sacrificing brother in the cause of suffering humanity, with her numerous family, is, or was some few years ago, wandering about the rural districts dependent upon their daily labor, in the meanest capacities, for their existence. This is a poor return to a profession, the services of whose members, in times of the greatest peril and danger, by the invasion of decimating epidemics, are always available for the safety and protection of society at large, as well as intimately bound with the general welfare. We have not, unfortunately, the same opportunities, in the great contest for emolument, fame, and position, which belong to other professions or avocations. Instead of being permitted the advantages which these possess, advantages which we would gladly restrict to merit and usefulness, and to such only, we have no temptation held out to us, that is worth, for a moment, the consideration of a noble mind.

Every member of the profession should become a strenuous advocate and supporter of the institution now proposed, and thereby avert that mental agony, distress, and misery, generally consequent upon disappointed and fallen fortunes. I am, it is true, but a feeble advocate of a measure calculated to meet these contingencies, which, although common to every class of professions or business, is especially so to the medical practitioner of this province; yet, as one of forty years' experience, I would permit myself to ask the members of the profession in general, in nearly the same words of a philanthropic physician, "Whether, considering your acquirements, your position in society is as it ought to be, whether the amount of remuneration for your services equals the duties you have to perform, or whether these onerous and painful duties are estimated by the public in an equal ratio with the duties of other men, who neither experience your anxiety, nor are subjected to your privations, nor compelled to struggle with pecuniary difficulties, nor exposed to dangerous and malignant diseases, and to breathe putrid and poisonous atmosphere." I answer