

As to taking action, that is an open question; I do not know whether it would be a wise thing.

Dr. BRITTON—Unless we get a full and ample apology.

Dr. THORBURN—It is a question whether it would be worth our while to fight in court, stirring up mud and dirt.

Dr. MOORE—There is none to stir up.

Dr. BRAY—We may stir up some, but it won't stick to us.

Dr. DAY—You are not so sure of that, it sticks sometimes where it should not.

Dr. THORBURN—That is an open question. I can only characterize the statement as utterly untrue.

Dr. ROGERS—Mr. President, in rising to speak to this motion, I confess, at the outset, it meets with my hearty approval. I was a member of the Legislative Committee for 1891, and with others I came to Toronto to endeavour to get the Medical Act amended in the way which we considered was in the interests of the whole profession of medicine. In getting legislation of any kind surely any person with common sense can see that it costs some little money, if, for instance, the municipality of London, Ontario, wished any part of their Act amended it would be necessary for that body to send a deputation—a legislative committee, if you like—consisting of the mayor and two or three aldermen and the solicitor, to Toronto, in order to get such legislation, and it is not conceivable that that could be done without cost; and just as that would cost some money, so it would cost a certain amount of money to get legislation on the part of any municipal body, as it does on the part of this body. It must be remembered that the idea the Council had in seeking the legislation they did in 1891 was, first, they sought to get the Act amended so that they could control matriculation examinations; in the second place, they sought legislation that they might be able to collect the outstanding dues without the great cost and expense and disgrace of going into the Division Court. At that time there were thousands of dollars of outstanding dues owing to the Council, and we could not collect them, unless we got some means the way we did in the legislation of 1891. Surely the object of the Council then in seeking that was to make the profession of medicine better in the Province of

Ontario. But ever since we got the legislation which suspended a number for non-payment of dues, we have met with calumny and with the greatest amount of abuse from certain quarters, from quarters which we might have expected it from; that is, from men like some of those who formed the Defence Association, men who refused to pay their annual and honest dues; and it is to be regretted, and very bitterly regretted, I think, that a great newspaper like the *Mail*, a paper which undoubtedly wields an enormous influence in the Province of Ontario, should become the gutter for the vile stuff which has been poured into it for the last number of years against the Medical Council, against the executive body of the great profession of medicine of this province. This paper has been nothing less than the gutter in which that stain has fallen; and when we come together this year, on the first and opening day of our meeting, we find an editorial in this paper, directed against the executive body, elected by the medical profession, and sent here to do their work. If the medical profession have any fault to find with us it will be only a short time till they can turn us out, and surely we might have been left alone, instead of being trampled on and insulted in this way. I can speak only as far as I know in regard to this matter from the members of the profession in my own division, and I can truly say this, that the whole course which the *Mail* newspaper and Defence Association have adopted, has not been with the approval of the profession in my division. We admit that we have faults, but the medical profession, while admitting that we have faults and are only human, say we are quite capable of correcting these faults within ourselves. It seems to me the idea put forth by some of the members in speaking, is correct. I think this way of treating a newspaper like the *Mail*, with silent contempt, is not correct; I think the time has passed when silent contempt is correct. If this article is anything it is libellous, if it is not libellous, then it is not possible for a newspaper to publish an article which is libellous, if it is libellous, and we stand by tamely, like so many chickens, and allow our personal honour (because that is involved in that article), to be insulted, then, I say, we cannot expect to have the respect of the profession of medicine throughout this province, and I maintain we ought to put this