

4 Were the defendants actuated by improper or unprofessional motives in signing the certificates?

To all of these questions the jury gave an answer favorable to the defendants, and a verdict in their behalf.

The costs must be very heavy in this action. It is not at all likely that the defendants will be able to recover their large disbursements from the plaintiff. The husband was no party to the action. Indeed, took the side of the defendants, as did also the plaintiff's mother, daughter and uncle. The statements made by the defendants were borne out by the clear and able testimony of Dr. Milner and Stenhouse.

Drs. Bryans and Smith are to be congratulated upon the result of the trial. It has a wider meaning than that of the defendants themselves, as such actions more or less affect the good and welfare of the entire profession. Every such action lost or comprised in any way encourages others to go to law with their grievances, or to attempt to extort money by blackmail. We feel that the profession should take some steps to recognize the valiant fight made by the defendants not only in their own interests, but in that of the whole medical profession.

A more unjust case than this was probably never launched into court. The evidence brought out the facts that the plaintiff had been addicted to the excessive use of alcohol, and that a verdict had been secured against a certain party for improper relationships with her. But it is usually the experience of the medical profession that suits for malpractice are instigated by the worthless or impecunious.

This is, perhaps, a fitting time to again call attention to the claims of the Canadian Medical Protective Association. So long as this worthy Association has only a membership of a few hundred, it has neither the means nor the influence it would have were its membership up into the thousands. There is no reason why every regular practitioner in Canada should not belong to this Association. If this Association had a membership of several thousands and four or five thousand dollars in the treasury, it would have a deterrent effect on cranks, crooks and designing patients. When litigation did come it would distribute the cost over many, instead of falling so heavily upon one or two. In the present instances perhaps at least \$400 each.

In the meantime, we extend to Drs. Bryans and Smith the congratulations of the entire medical profession.

THE OCTOBER ISSUE.

Our issue for October was unavoidably delayed in its publication for a short time, owing to some changes that were being made in the press-room of the printers.