

Gentlemen, the profession should watch this matter closely, and take what steps may be necessary to oppose all so-called amendments to the medical Acts, which do not emanate from the profession in organized form. It is difficult enough to secure the advancement of the profession. It will be still more difficult if by divided counsels one party pulls down while the other strives to build up. If we do not stand manfully together, that retrograde movements will be made there can be no doubt. The profession, I trust, will not expect too much from the Council. They must remember that its members are chosen from the human family with its usual frailties and its many infirmities, and it is not to be expected that its decisions can, in all cases, meet the views of the 2,100 medical men in Ontario, nor even the views of all the individual members of the Council. Yet with honesty of purpose, and a faithful determination to do its duty, we have confidence the interests of the public and the profession will be served.

Now, if legislation can be induced by unauthorized parties to amend the Medical Act, then the members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons have no guarantee as to what their position will be. The only guarantee the profession can have, is to insist that legislation shall emanate in some way from their representative body; and, if not satisfied with their representatives, change them in the regular way. There will be differences of opinion as to what is best. There must be compromises by individuals; there must be compromises by members of the Council; each cannot secure his particular views in every detail. But so long as the legislation secured by the Council is in the right direction, moving forward in the interests of the public and the profession, we should be satisfied. The public security and ours is in obtaining legislation through our representative body; and we should be prepared to resist all legislation introduced from any other source.