

showed the trouble to be of recent date. I grant what the gentlemen have said of the extreme rarity, and perhaps the impossibility, of idiopathic pericarditis. All of Dr. O'Donovan's authorities acknowledge that such a thing may occur. DaCosta says there are cases in which the closest investigation has failed to show any assignable cause. In twenty years' practice, during twelve or fifteen of which I have had all the clinical material of the North-Western Dispensary, averaging four to six thousand cases in a year, I have had an opportunity of getting hold of such a case, if such a thing exists. Dr. Walker, who had made over three thousand *post mortems*, particularly noted this case in the hospital, and that was the reason an autopsy was held. The case was a unique one in Dr. Walker's experience.

Correspondence.

Editor of THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER :

SIR,—IN THE PRACTITIONER of the 16th of May a communication appears, signed "Juvenis" (from nowhere), *re* the opposition to the amendments of 1891 to the Ontario Medical Act.

As the communication was admitted to the columns of THE PRACTITIONER over an assumed name, more or less speculation has arisen as to its authorship. While some are inclined to think it not necessary to look outside the editorial management of THE PRACTITIONER for the author, others credit it to the "Ingersoll statistical pyrotechnist." As one of the many opposed to the medical legislation of 1891, I regard it a matter of very little consequence as to who may have been the author of the letter referred to, and also of very little consequence the views which its author expresses. However, this much I will say, if the object of "Juvenis" in making himself impudently offensive through sneering allusions to the Medical Defence Association was to obtain the applause of the dominant section of the Medical Council, he must have succeeded remarkably well. "Juvenis" appears to have intentionally ignored the fact that it is not so much to a "*mean* \$2.00" assessment the members of the Medical Defence Association object as to the manner in which the Council has taken to enforce its payment, to the way in which the funds of the College are expended, and especially to the management and expenditure of the College being controlled and directed by members of Council *outside the reach of the medical electorate*. If I understand

the feeling of the Medical Defence Association, it is not likely to be daunted by the sneering of "Juvenis," nor yet by any formal expression (however "unanimous") *engineered* by the *faithful* at the late meeting of the Ontario Medical Association.

"Juvenis" may rest assured that the Medical Defence Association is not likely to be extinguished by his shadow, that its list of membership has been greatly augmented on account of the shuffling tactics in the formation of the late committee of the Legislature on Dr. Meacham's bill, and that when the proper time comes the Defence Association will be found on the stand again to press for the repeal of the amendments complained of; failing which, a united effort will be made, the first opportunity, to effect through another source such changes as shall eventually redress the whole of the evils which a majority of the profession very justly and properly object to.

I happen to have a personal knowledge and a distinct recollection of the circumstances and conditions which led to the admission of the assessment clause into the Medical Act in 1874. At the time, the Council, through extravagance and bad management during the first few years of the operation of the Act, had got to the bottom of the treasury. Representations made to the late Hon. Adam Crooks in 1874, then Minister of Education, were that financial relief was an absolute necessity to carry on business and to secure examiners from the ranks of the profession, who could not be expected or induced to undertake the duties without some hope of reward, and that the necessity for the operation of the assessment clause would not be more than temporary. The profession, in return for willing and early assistance, was assured that quacks of all sexes, sizes, and conditions should be summarily suppressed; that a full report of the operations and expenditures of the Council should from time to time be furnished the members of the College; that the different territorial divisions should be fairly represented upon the Examining Board, etc., etc. To what extent have these promises been kept? Quackery is as rampant and flagrantly carried on now—even under the nose of the Council—as it has ever been; information respecting the speculative and other operations of the Council