

PLICIT in this matter, it would prevent much interference and vexatious annoyance, and further the study of anatomy, which lies at the foundation of practical medicine and surgery. The holding of *post mortem* examinations in cases of a doubtful character as to pathology affords most excellent tuition. Within the last few years I have found, in my private practice, that such examinations have become much more frequent, the educated class of people, as a general rule, readily consenting to and affording facilities for holding the same.

I especially desire to call the attention of the Association to a portion of the Code of Ethics of this body. It is a matter of regret to many that not only the spirit but the letter of this section is so frequently overlooked. I have always considered that general practitioners ought not to advertise a specialty, at the same time doing general practice, and I would like to ask if it is your intention that this section shall be stringently observed, or is it put there merely as a reminder for those who wish to observe it? Has the Association the moral courage to insist upon the strict observance of this section, or does it consent to relax its stringency?

Ten years ago this Association was founded by men who believed that this large and important province should have a society independent of the Dominion Association, and I need not tell you how prosperous it has become nor what a power it has been for the advancement of the profession. At our annual meeting last June, a communication was received from the Dominion Medical Association requesting us to consider the question of affiliation with that society, and a committee was then formed, with discretionary power, to meet the Dominion Medical Association, which was to convene in this city in September. Your committee were cordially received, and a most satisfactory basis of affiliation agreed upon. We would like to see the terms of affiliation extended to local medical societies, so that they may all work harmoniously for the advancement of our profession and the maintenance of our reputation among the nations of the world.

We are all painfully aware of the fact that our profession has its own troubles and trials with which to contend, and none are more vexatious and harassing to the busy, overworked

practitioner than the frivolous actions for malpractice which of late years have been so numerous. As a physician's or surgeon's reputation is his capital, these actions are a great hardship, as they entail both expense and obloquy; for many people, never hearing the true version of the case, consider that the practitioner must have been in fault. The monetary consideration is also a large item, which, along with the loss of time and the worry consequent upon such a suit, makes the defending physician's lot most uncomfortable and embarrassing. In order to lend financial as well as moral support to our fellow-practitioners in distress, as also to encourage them to boldly resist flagrant injustice, I think it very desirable that a "Medical Defence Fund" be raised under the auspices and direction of this Association; but as medical men are like every other class of the community, and therefore liable sometimes to become careless and run over their work without giving it the careful consideration which is necessary to insure success, some of these actions for malpractice may be well-founded; and for this reason it would be necessary to have the objects of the fund clearly understood, and also a provision made for the careful consideration of the merits of each case before assistance is granted the defendant. If the case is one of hardship, in which the defendant is clearly not at fault—and the majority of suits belong to that class—he certainly ought to receive, not only sympathy, but also substantial assistance from his fellow-practitioners.

I would also like to call your attention to the by-law referring to club practice. I can safely say that no profession or calling dispenses so much charity, in the way of gratuitous services, as our own. The very nature of our work makes this necessary to a large extent, but beyond this I think we ought not to be burdened. I feel confident that the profession, to a unit, regard the system of club practice as pernicious in the extreme, and would be pleased were it abolished. There is a great inducement for young men just entering upon practice to engage with clubs from the fact that it serves as an introduction to the public, as by attending the head, they hope to be called to attend the other members of the family. I know of one instance where a medical man has engaged