

It goes without saying that it behooves every member of the profession in his intercourse with his professional brethren to observe the spirit, if not the letter, of the code of ethics, for nothing is more calculated to bring the profession into disrepute than unseemly rivalries and jealousies among the members. Upon this phase of the question it is not necessary to enlarge.

I think it fair to concede that the Medical Council, the executive body entrusted with the administration of the Medical Act, have, all things considered, administered the trust wisely and well, both in the public interests and in the interests of medical science. While the standard of admission to membership of the College of Physicians and Surgeons has been gradually raised to keep pace with discovery and advancing knowledge, it has not been raised too high to admit a goodly number of eligible recruits to the medical army in this Province, well prepared to grapple successfully with disease in every form. So that the citizens of this country, in city, town, hamlet or rural neighborhood, are within easy reach and have no reason to complain of either the quantity or quality of the medical service at their command. Neither have they any ground of complaint in the line of exorbitant charges; for, excepting the fees required by a few specialists in certain classes of disease, the charges are exceedingly moderate, even to persons in affluent circumstances; and the instances are not numerous where medical practitioners in long and extensive practice accumulate anything beyond a mere competence. And to the credit of the profession be it spoken, much of its most anxious toil and service is rendered without remuneration, and not unfrequently without thanks. There is in the profession much of the spirit of unselfishness that was so marked a characteristic in that favorite ideal drawn by the pen of genius—William McLure of Drumtochty.

I have long held the opinion, which grows stronger with the passing years, that the Medical Council would give a decided impetus to the study of medical science in this Province and raise the average standard of knowledge to a higher plane than it has yet reached by awarding annually one or more scholarships to the candidates who showed the greatest talent and proficiency in certain subjects, the scholarships or fellowships to take the form of the expenses of a post-graduate course in one or other of the famous schools of Europe or America. I believe that such an application of a portion of the revenues of the Council—which by the estimates of the Finance Committee for 1896-7 amounts to the large sum of \$30,000—would have a tendency to remove whatever suspicion exists in a portion of the public mind, and in the minds probably of students, that high fees and difficult examinations are intended as much to prevent overcrowding and competition in the profession as to secure a high standard of medical education.

I cannot help believing, also, that such a measure on the part of the Council, combined with a disposition to curtail its own ordinary expenses, would be popular with the profession and largely remove the reluctance which so many members have shown to pay the small annual assessment, and who do not believe in the wisdom of some of the business transactions of the Council during the past.

At all events, I feel persuaded that the results of extended study and investigation, encouraged in the manner which I have indicated, would greatly redound to the standing and dignity of the profession both at home and abroad.