

To the Medical Electors of Territorial Division No. 12.

GENTLEMEN,—I am in receipt of your requisition asking me to again represent you in the Medical Council. It is, I observe, signed by over 120 of your number, and those active in the movement assure me that this result has been reached by only a very incomplete postal canvass of the constituency. This practically amounts to unanimity. Your declaration that you have not failed to note the zeal and fidelity with which I have tried to guard your rights, and that you approve of the stand I have taken in Council affairs, is highly gratifying to me—is, indeed, compensation for much that was unpleasant in the experience of the past four years. I cannot refuse to accede to a request so generously urged, and, therefore, though still of the opinion that I could serve you more effectively in another capacity, I cheerfully put myself in your hands. I may add that, if again elected, you may rely upon my serving you in the Council, loyally and fearlessly, to the best of my humble ability, and with an eye single to the vital concerns of the profession.

In again offering myself for your suffrages, it is but proper that I should give you some account of my stewardship. I can only afford a few brief paragraphs in this connection, but they may serve to show you what we have done, and, also, why we failed in some things attempted. Once you grasp the fact that there exists in the Medical Council a solid wall of obstruction to certain reforms, and a compact opposition to nearly all reforms, you will appreciate our difficulties, and may be expected to marvel—not that we have achieved so little—but that, under the circumstances, we have been able to accomplish so much.

In striking a balance between the desirable and the attainable in the Medical Council, you must always bear in mind both the composite character of that body and the artfully contrived machinery by which it is run. Elsewhere (*MEDICAL REVIEW* for 1896 97, to which I refer you for details) I have fully and honestly explained how, by the recreancy of some of its own representatives, the Medical electorate is cheated out of its just and lawfully preponderating influence in the Council. The eight schoolmen, five homœopaths and three territorial ex-presidents form a "Ruling Alliance of Sixteen" in a body of only thirty members. The President's chair which, being in the gift of the Alliance, is the pivotal point of the contrivance, is offered to competition among territorial members, and every third