

We are, however, very gravely and seriously informed that if this demand for self-government be enforced and crystallized into law, then the school men and homœopaths will enter into an alliance and secure legislation to obliterate the Council and have their ancient privileges restored. Let me remind these gentlemen that the ear of Parliament can be reached only through the avenue of justice and the public weal. Is it just that a professor or a homœopath should have twelve voices in the government of the profession where a general practitioner has but one? If so, then go to Parliament. Is it consonant with the public well-being, or in harmony with the spirit of the age in which we live, that the boon of self-government should be withheld from a learned and beneficent profession? If so, then go to Parliament. On the contrary, if these questions demand, as they certainly do, a negative answer, then will this alliance find out to its chagrin the futility of any attempt to destroy a Council which, with all its faults, has done much for the profession and more for the public, and the public through their representatives will be slow to tolerate any infringement of the Medical Act by privileged and selfish hands.

HUMBUGGING IN MEDICINE.—It is a very sad commentary on the practice of medicine that humbugging is almost a necessity, and the honest physician, that is, the physician who takes the patient into his confidence, soon finds himself without that patient. As a man once said to his doctor: "Doctor, my wife thinks she has some trouble with her lung, and if you do not humor her some one else will." The trouble is that if a physician says honestly to a patient that she is well and needs no medical attention, she straightway writes him down for a fool and sends for some one else. This one may be just as honest as the poor fellow who was dismissed, but he holds his tongue where the other one talked and "looks wise, feels foolish and says nothing." Patients always like to think their physician is above them in knowledge, and when that familiarity which is said to breed contempt is once established between doctor and patient, obedience and respect are lost. The patient need not understand all that is done, nor need the nature or proposed effect of the medicine given be revealed. Indeed the truly honest man can do his patient justice and himself credit by explaining nothing and using his best efforts to effect a cure or an improvement. The public knows too much of medicine as it is, and this smattering should not be encouraged by any confidence of the physician. One can be honest and also discreet.

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