

new organization which had been formed to assist the confederation in a serious emergency should be put on trial for a couple of years. In accordance with this remarkable decision the following resolution was passed: "Resolved that it is the sense of this Executive Committee that they will not consider the application of any society which has not held at least two annual meetings."

The new association entered into its period of probation with feelings of both surprise and disappointment, but with hopes that its work would be judged on its merits, and duly recognized at the proper time. After the second annual meeting the volumes of the transactions for two years were duly filed. After the third meeting, which was held in Philadelphia, twelve copies of each volume of transactions were asked for. This meeting was so successful from every point of view that it was supposed the perusal of the transactions would strengthen any favorable impressions which had been created by the former two. The delay was to some extent embarrassing because the association was unable to announce definitely the time and place of the fourth meeting. The third volume was completed as soon as possible, and the thirty-six books were forwarded to the Committee of the Congress. When all the evidence was received the committee did not arrive at a conclusion suddenly or rashly; they took ample time for deliberation, and while they were deliberating the new Association was waiting.

After about seven months the Executive Committee of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons was held in Philadelphia, and shortly afterwards sent an official intimation to the new society, stating that it would not be admitted to the Congress.

This is a brief but plain statement of one of the most extraordinary transactions known to medical history in North America. Why was the new association accorded such treatment? This question was asked by the president of this association fifteen years ago, and has not yet been answered. There was at that time a rumor in the air that the general argument used against the new association was that it really represented