

province. There remains, then, over 1,250 practitioners, or more than half the profession, who still refuse to hand over their money to the Council to be expended contra to law in its real estate misadventure. At the recent meeting, the Registrar, in reply to a question, stated that he had, during the year, issued certificates of payment to over 1,100 members, so that in fact considerably more than half the members have refused to pay up. The list does not include the tax for the present year. About forty only owe \$2, and about the same number owe \$26, or the whole accumulated arrearage of twenty-two years.

*Question.*—Have the Defence members of the Council paid their so-called back dues?

*Answer.*—No. Their arrearage was and is in each case deducted by the Treasurer from their sessional allowance. To this they had no alternative but submission under protest.

*Question.*—Why are not the annual proceedings of the Council fully and fearlessly criticized in the professional journals and the public press at the close of each session, as was promised in 1894?

*Answer.*—Subsequently to the election of several of the most active members of the Defence Association to seats in the Medical Council, it was thought proper to suspend all further appeals to either the profession or the public until after a vigorous and a sustained effort had been made to rectify existing abuses constitutionally through the Council itself. To this end, at the earnest solicitation of a few of us, the Executive of the Defence Association consented to forego all aggressive action until after the close of the Council's session of 1897. If the efforts of the Defence members of the Council are as futile in 1897 as they have proved to be in 1895 and 1896, the Executive of the Association will, in all probability, next July change its phase of expectancy for one of very decided activity. In that event it will, I presume, depute to some one the duty of fearlessly criticizing every vote given and every contention set forth by each member of the Council, and more especially of each territorial representative. In the meantime the published reports of the Council's proceedings are open to all, and are pregnant with meaning, and with sources of enlightenment, and the practical lessons they inculcate are so plain to every man of ordinary discernment, that he who runs may read. Pending, then, the probable renewal of hostilities a year hence, when it would seem that some startling disclosures are likely to be given and some spicy strictures made, I would urge every member of the College to carefully and thoughtfully read the reports of the Council's proceedings for last year and this.

Two other questions are now somewhat frequently cropping up, viz.: "What was the origin and the motive, and what will likely prove