

The plaintiffs were medical men and had accepted appointments in the Coventry Provident Dispensary, an association formed for securing medical attendance for its members and their families. The members paid an annual fee of 4s., and the income of the Dispensary was about £4,000, one-half of which was expended in drugs, and payment of skilled dispensers, and the balance in payment of doctors on the medical staff. The Medical Association was an association of doctors having branches in Coventry and elsewhere. The members in Coventry appear to have conceived that there was something unprofessional on the part of the plaintiffs in being connected with the Dispensary, and with a view to compel them to disassociate themselves therefrom, the Medical Association published defamatory statements concerning the plaintiffs and caused them to be boycotted by the other members of the profession in Coventry and elsewhere. The action was brought to recover damages for conspiracy, slander and libel. The defendants did not offer any justification or defence of their defamatory statements, but the Medical Association asserted a legal right to boycott the plaintiffs and accepted responsibility for the acts of the various divisions of the Association concerned in the boycott and for threats of its officials and agents. McArdie, J., who tried the action, in a very elaborate judgment discussed the rights of the parties, and came to the conclusion, that there being no substantial ground for saying that the acts of the plaintiffs were unprofessional or contrary to the honour of the profession, the conduct of the Medical Association and its various divisions and officials was wholly unwarranted and an unlawful interference with the plaintiffs in the practice of their profession, and he gave a judgment for very substantial sums in favour of the respective plaintiffs.

SHIP REQUISITIONED BY ADMIRALTY — SALVAGE SERVICES PERFORMED BY VESSEL REQUISITIONED — RIGHT TO SALVAGE — "SHIP BELONGING TO HIS MAJESTY" — MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 (57-58 VICT. c. 60), s. 557 — MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1916 (6-7 GEO. 5, c. 41), s. 1.

*Admiralty Commissioners v. Page* (1919) 1 K.B. 299. This was an appeal from the decision of Bailhache, J. (1918) 2 K.B. 447 (noted *ante* p. 27), and the Court of Appeal (Eady, M.R., and Duke, J.A., and Eve, J.) have affirmed the judgment.