

are against our best interests. They are ignoring the fact that we have a representative body, and that changes in our constitution should be sought in the constitutional way. Changes obtained in any other way will render the professional status insecure from year to year, and subject it to the whims and fancies of those seeking notoriety, or those who think that, through their influence in the Legislature, they can become the rulers of the profession. We need scarcely say that thoughtful medical men will not wish to put their profession in that position, but prefer that radical changes in the organization shall emanate from the profession in some organized form. The consensus of opinion may then be secured, even should all details not harmonize with our individual wishes. The last session of the Legislature was fruitful in attempts of this kind. There were no less than three Bills introduced to amend the Ontario Medical Act.

The first is, "an Act to amend the Ontario Medical Act." In this form, section 45 is amended by adding as follows: "But the application of a plaster or plasters, with the object of healing or removing cancers or other growths, shall not be considered as practising medicine or surgery within the meaning of this Act."

The next Bill is to repeal section 27 of the Ontario Medical Act. It is introduced not by medical men, as, in fact, neither was the other. It is therefore open to the same objections. To repeal this section means to strike off the fee that was found necessary and was imposed in 1874. The Council had the right, in making their estimates, to rely on this income from the profession; and now when they have entered into obligations, this Bill comes forward, not from the medical men, but from outsiders, to take away the fund upon which they have been relying to provide for their annual expenditure. It is equally objectionable with the other, as it did not emanate from the proper source.

We come now to the third Bill. This unfortunately was introduced by a medical man. I say unfortunately, because it is a great misfortune when we have medical men in the Legislature, who should be the guardians of the professional interests, yet are swerved from their plain duty, and who allow themselves to be used to make attacks on their own representative body. What is to be expected from lay members if professional men do not stand by their own professions? In the Ontario Legislature, there are eleven members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Of these, nine worked manfully for their own representative body, and deserve the gratitude of the College, and of every individual member of it. To their exertions we are largely indebted for the throwing out of the three Bills we have brought to your notice. There were but two, who, for the moment, forgot their allegiance.