

a desire that my efforts to reform the crooked ways of the Council should be successful, as by anxiety that those territorial representatives who, like himself, always vote with the "Solid Phalanx" should have, when brought to book by their constituents, what he would properly enough call a "plausible" excuse for so voting. The "Inner Circle" had evidently recognized the fact that the systematic blocking, by the aid of a few territorial votes, of every reform projected in the interests of the profession, is too phenomenal to pass unchallenged by the electorate. By charging that these reforms were urged in terms so offensive that no man with Anglo-Saxon blood in his veins could condescend to vote for them, howsoever right and proper, in themselves, they might be, Dr. Williams was thought to have supplied the *plausible* excuse required. I cannot, however, believe that the profession is to be thus taken in. The terms in which these reforms were urged in the Council by myself and others are set forth in the Announcement, and I earnestly invite my fellow practitioners to take nothing at second hand, but to closely and critically read the proceedings so as to see for themselves the hollow sham and silly childishness of the excuse thus suggested.

Not the least comical aspect of Dr. Williams' lecture is his artless recommendation that I should take a leaf out of his own book and be "plausible" if I "want my views to prevail in the Council." I am quite willing to accept without question his insinuation that with the "Solid Phalanx" to be "plausible" is to be convincing, but I cannot believe that the newer members are to be reached thus cheaply. In fact I can quite understand that plausibility has, heretofore, been, if not the whole stock in trade, at least the right bower in Council discussions. Dr. Williams is undoubtedly a man of much general ability, and both old associations and a strong sense of his personal influence and worth lead me to esteem him very highly. I deeply regret that, in Council debates touching the interests and welfare of the profession, he is uniformly against us instead of with us, but there are not wanting some indications that he may in time view matters from our standpoint. Meanwhile, much as I admire the eminent skill and success with which he uses plausibilities, which from the lips of a less astute man would appear childish, I must decline his invitation to seek success through the same or similar avenues. If Dr. Williams stops to reflect, he must surely know that the word "plausible" is almost invariably used in a bad sense as the synonym of "specious," while among average people it is looked upon as the equivalent of "humbug." Thus, Campbell says: "Fiction may be as *plausible* as truth." Whateley says: "All popular errors are *plausible*."