

organization. And, as is well known, the Medical Council attributes its recent crushing defeat in the Legislature much more largely to my instrumentality than any poor efforts of mine—earnest and sustained though they were—can at all deserve. Hence, this sorry exhibition of impotent rage, which, unable to score more deeply, expended itself in an act of pitifully small revenge as is sufficiently—though very imperfectly—portrayed in the carefully sifted and revised report you have been permitted to publish. Hence, the base detraction and spiteful defamation of a medical student by one of his own professors, which, if a sample of the kindly and paternal protection afforded to its undergraduates by the Toronto University, may well serve to deter young men about to enter the profession from connecting with that institution, while the individual in question is suffered to retain both his seat in the Council and his position on its Medical Faculty. And hence, also, the lively anxiety displayed by the Council to retaliate in some form on the Secretary of the Defence Association, for the hard usage it had received from that body during the past few months. And so, conceiving that it had an instrument wherewith to wound, it had recourse to the truly Hibernian expedient of seeking to strike the father through the son. It was just such blind, unreasoning desire for revenge, pointed by similarly perverted notions of right and wrong, that prompted, not very long ago, the use of dynamite at Charing Cross to punish the British Government in Westminster. It remains to be seen how the profession will regard the adoption, by the Medical Council, of tactics heretofore supposed to be peculiar to the Clan-na-Gael—whether this and similar attempts to break the force of the charges made against it, by vilifying the motives of those concerned and to wreak vengeance on its opponents by impaling persons wholly innocent of all offence, will not receive, as it deserves, the severe condemnation of every right-minded and respectable practitioner in the province. These are not the usages of civilized warfare—are contrary to the customs and opposed to the instincts of honourable men. In fact, were it not that so wide and so impassable a gulf separates gentlemen from poltroons, and that we have only quite lately had repeated the Medical Council's annual proclamation that its membership

embraces none but "gentlemen," its action in this matter might have been very fitly characterized as dastardly and contemptible.

The Medical Council and its defenders are singularly unfortunate in their ascription of motives to their adversaries. The much-repeated assertion that the whole crusade of the Defence Association was inspired by anxiety to evade the payment of an honest debt, with some other misstatements referring to myself personally, which have from time to time appeared in your editorial columns, I propose to deal with in a future letter. You have more than once declared that your journal is open to correspondence on matters pertaining to the profession, and you have made it a ground of complaint that we have preferred to use the public press. I have now therefore to request you to insert this letter in your next issue. You will, of course, do your "little best" to explain it away, or to break its force by raising side issues, or to otherwise fulfil the functions peculiar to a subsidized organ. But should you find it inexpedient to give my letter in full in your August number I shall feel constrained to reach the profession through the more independent Medical periodicals, and the public through the *Toronto Dailies*.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN H. SANGSTER.

Port Perry, August 8th.

#### HAMILTON CITY HOSPITAL.

*To the Editor of* ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

The Hamilton City Hospital is once more passing through a period of unrest. When St. Joseph's Hospital was founded some three years ago, the authorities of that institution announced that there would be no regular staff of medical men appointed, but that every physician in the city would be permitted to attend any patient whom he might send there. The result of this policy has been to make St. Joseph's decidedly popular and prosperous. Some say this prosperity has been obtained at the expense of the city hospital, which, perhaps, is true; for the majority of the profession contend that it would be exceedingly foolish on their part to send patients to an institution from which they, as physicians or surgeons, are excluded. Of over fifty medical men in Hamilton, only six general practitioners and one oculist are permitted to