

Cottam, and such other persons as answered the said advertisement, after first ascertaining their financial standing and the amount they could pay, by undertaking to cure them for a certain amount paid in cash and such other amounts paid weekly or monthly as they could afford to pay. And it is further charged that the offer of free consultation, advertised as aforesaid, was not made *bona-fide* in connection with the legitimate practise of medicine, but was a fraudulent and disgraceful scheme and device to induce persons suffering from various ailments to call at the address given in the said advertisement, in order that the said William F. McBrien might obtain money from time to time upon the pretences above set forth.

And further, that the said William F. McBrien, by the publication of such advertisements, was guilty of infamous or disgraceful conduct in a professional respect.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

HENRY W. DAY,
Chairman of Committee.

DR. MCBRIEN'S COMMUNICATION.

OSHAWA, ONT., June 8th, 1894.

To the Medical Council :

GENTLEMEN, I have the honor to inform you that I received your communication some time ago, in which some strong terms are used against me.

Now, if you can stop all quackery in this country, no man will be better pleased than your humble servant. Superior medical men require no protection here of a legal character, nor do I think inferior ones find it necessary; they are strong in numbers here as well as in Toronto. They are perfectly unscrupulous and exceedingly dangerous to the community. No wonder that Rev. Mr. Jones, of Toronto, recently denounced them from the pulpit, saying "they were fitted by nature for carpenters, for making coffins, for making work for the undertakers, for producing sadness and sorrow in many a family." They observe a routine like Toronto Hospital in fever cases. I do not hesitate to say that not one in twenty of them know how to treat a fever—they treat temperature, not disease. The same may be predicted of them when dealing with inflammations. You and I are helpless when we try to give them brains. They are partly educated, but not one in fifty can be called an enlightened man. In Boston, Mass., the most cultured city in America, sometimes called the Athens of this continent on account of its refinement, no Medical Council (in that city) has any restrictions on medical practice, but you must hold a doctor's certificate to collect in the courts.

I practised medicine eight years in this country without putting my name in a paper. I never sued a poor man in my life. I never wronged or in any way abused a patient.

You say I charged a man \$4.50 for medicine and treatment in Toronto. That is quite true, i.e., for a month's treatment. I informed him at first that his case was nearly hopeless.

You had a medical man giving evidence against me in that city who has not the honor of knowing me at all. Strange to say, he performed an operation in this town, for which he received a large sum of money,

probably hundreds of dollars. The patient passed into eternity, then and there, I presume, he informed the friends there was a chance for her life; probably there was, if properly treated in time, but, alas! she fell into the hands of ignorance and selfishness; you know selfishness is the foundation of lies, fraud and even murder.

There is a brainless medical doctor in this town who was once in the Council; he plays the part of jackall for that plutocratic specialist who gave evidence against me, and thinking, at the expense of my good name, to reciprocate the services of this contemptible —, he is now used by a financial creature in this town who, for hardened villainy and fraudulent financial transactions, has no equal in the Dominion of Canada. He not only destroyed my property and family—all that I made for forty years—but many others; he has now his hell-hounds at work every day among them. These dangerous fifth-class medical men, who are doing more than other men in Canada to destroy the dignity of the medical profession, they are lodge doctors; some of them belong to many societies, which they use to promote their selfish interest at the expense of superior men, justice, truth and human life. It is sad to have to say so, yet, too true, they know how to inject morphine, with the possible consequences, simply because the patient is in pain, sometimes producing almost immediate death; the great doctrines of Cullen never enter their mind; they appear never to think of the laws of nature, of thermal and electrical forces which constantly and continually modify the synergies of the human organization. Human life is the just consideration of every nation, property is secondary.

Rolph used to say the doctor has no more right to kill a man than any other citizen.

A large number of the druggists in the country practise medicine in a quiet way, and persuade themselves that they understood the phenomena of disease although they know nothing of different diagnosis. What are you going to do with the transgressors? How are you going to cleanse the Augean stables?

In Toronto, a few medical gentlemen examined a number of aspirants for the position of Health Officer, and put in a small bill of mere \$3,000, a monstrous piece of iniquity for men belonging to Christian churches and benevolent societies: \$300 would be nearer a proper remuneration. "Honesty is inseparable from the character of a gentleman," said a British General commanding in India.

Again, the medical bill of the city in one year was \$10,000; the services rendered were not worth half the money. Are not the taxpayers robbed by the ring? Can you find a parallel for such outrages and dishonesty since the days of "Boss Tweed" in New York?

It may be well for me to mention that when I returned from England I sent two degrees to Hamilton for registration. The money was stolen, and a demand made for more; five dollars answered the place of seven. The Postmaster-General wished to know if suspicion rested on any particular party, but I let the matter drop after paying twelve dollars instead of two for registration. The money was sent in registered letter.

It may be well for me to remind you that many of the medical men of this province are not satisfied