

were expedient or not, they were invariably initiated and supported by those directly chosen as the representatives of the profession; that these representatives were endorsed whenever they went for re election; and that therefore every action of the Council has been sanctioned without a dissenting voice, with the solitary exception of the provision for the collection of debts, to which the debtors of the Council have objected.

But even though the profession has in the past approved all our actions, no one questions the right of each one to change his mind and disapprove of that with which he formerly found no fault. All that we ask is, for the credit of the profession, that he should criticize honestly and deal fairly. To misrepresent our actions, to question our good faith, to impute to us improper motives, to adopt the tactics of the demagogue, and invoke the language of Billingsgate in giving expression to unfair criticism, is as disgraceful to a physician as it is unworthy of a gentleman.

Not only is it unjust to those who are assailed; it has a wider maleficent effect. For nothing could have a more injurious influence on young licentiates: nothing could have a more debasing influence on medical ethics; nothing could more effectually lower the profession in public esteem.

As a profession, we occupy a position in this province which medical men of other countries may envy. Whether we shall advance still further, or even retain the place we have, depends upon ourselves. And this Council now remits all questions at issue, and the future *status* of the profession, to the only legitimate court of appeal—the medical electorate—in full confidence that the result will be for the best interests of both the physicians and the people of Ontario.

Dr. BERGIN replied to the President as follows:

Mr. President, before you leave the chair, with the permission of the Council, I desire to say a few words. I do not think after the very able and eloquent review of the work of the Council which you have addressed to us, that any member of this Council or any member of the profession in Ontario outside of the Council will question the wisdom of the Council in calling you to the chair last year. (Applause.) That you have done credit, in many ways beyond any of your predecessors, I think no one will hesitate to admit (hear, hear); and that your services to the Council during the recess have been almost invaluable. And you have done during this past year more to put the Council in the favorable light that it ought to occupy with the profession than any member of the Council either before or since your election to the President's chair. I do not think it is necessary for me to add anything further except to say this, that whilst you will be succeeded by one of the ablest men in the Council, by the man who has brought the business of the Council to its present financial success, yet I regret that the rules of the Council do not permit that you should be elected a second time in succession to the chair.

I now move, seconded by Dr. Bray, Mr. President,

that you leave the chair, and that Dr. Fowler be called thereto.

On Dr. Bergin's motion being put and carried, the President retired from the chair, which was taken by Dr. Fowler.

Dr. BERGIN—Before making the nomination of the gentleman who is to occupy the chair this year, I desire to move that the thanks of this Council be given to the retiring President for his great and valuable services to the Council during the past year.

Dr. MOORE—I have great pleasure in seconding Dr. Bergin's resolution, and I feel a very great deal of pleasure in recalling that I proposed Dr. Campbell as President last year. I then felt that he would make an able representative and would reflect credit upon himself and this Council, and I am gratified to know that everybody recognizes the fact that he has done so. (Applause.)

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Dr. FOWLER then tendered the vote of thanks to the President, and said: After the remarks made by Drs. Bergin and Moore, and the expression of approbation by the Council, it is needless for me to add anything beyond the thanks of this Council for your very able conduct in the chair during a very trying period.

Dr. CAMPBELL, in reply, said:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I beg to assure you I am deeply grateful for this mark of your appreciation of my services in the chair of President, and of my faithfulness in the performance of my duties. I tried, so far as I knew how, to do the best I could. I have avoided, I think, pushing the Council into any undue notoriety, or saddling any special responsibility, moral or legal, upon it. I have simply endeavored to carry out as far as I could, what I thought to be the wishes and desires of the Council; and if I have succeeded in meriting your approbation, as I must assume I have from what has just been said, I can assure you I am abundantly satisfied. And I must bespeak for my successor in office the same support that you tendered me while I was your presiding officer.

Dr. Campbell then resumed the chair, and called for nominations for the office of President.

Dr. BERGIN—Mr. Chairman, I move that Dr. Philip be President for the ensuing year. In moving Dr. Philip, it is unnecessary for me to say anything more than I have already said respecting the merits of that gentleman and his ability to fill the chair as it ought to be filled. Dr. Philip is one of those quiet, retiring members of the Council, who has confined himself to active work. He has, during the many years he has been in the Council, given his attention more especially to the finances of the Council, and that we are in so sound a position financially is due mainly to Dr. Philip and to the able man who is our treasurer. I think there can be no question in the mind of any member of this Council of the entire capacity of Dr. Philip to fill the chair well. And Dr. Philip, on the other hand, may feel assured that every member of this Council will give to him the same aid that they gave you, sir, during your period of its occupancy. I have, therefore, great pleasure in proposing Dr. Philip as President for the ensuing year, seconded by Dr. Fowler.

At the request of the President, Dr. Bergin cast a ballot, there being no other nominations, and on the ballot being examined by the President, he declared Dr. Philip elected unanimously.