

soon as paid for, and would relieve the Council and the profession from all expenses in the future, rather than put up with inferior accommodations for which an annual rent would have to be paid.

It is further objected that the power of striking a name off the register for failure to pay an assessment is unprecedented and outrageous : and that the necessity for each physician taking out an annual certificate is humiliating. The fact is, however, that this is nothing more than the usual power exercised by other corporations. The Law Association, for example, taxes every lawyer in Ontario, \$17 per year, and the non-payment of this amount results in his suspension and the loss of all his professional privileges, besides subjecting him to heavy fines. No complaint is heard from the lawyers about this law : and yet they are probably as tenacious of their individual rights, and as prompt to defend their professional dignity, as any class of men could be. The druggists are required to pay \$4 a year, and delinquents become liable to all the penalties incurred by one who sells drugs without a license.

Somewhat similar laws are found in other Provinces. In New Brunswick, sec. 5 of the Medical Act of 1882 requires each registered practitioner to pay an annual fee of not less than \$1 nor more than \$2 ; and sec. 2 of the Act of 1884 erases from the register the name of every one not paying his annual fee, being, in fact, the very same law that we have in Ontario. In Quebec, clause 3,986 of sec. 2, chap. 4, Revised Statutes, says that every licensed physician of that Province "shall pay the sum of \$2 a year : " and by clause 3,994, unless he has so paid, no person can collect an account for medical attendance, nor be entitled to any of the rights or privileges conferred by the Medical Act. The Manitoba Medical Act, sec. 15, calls for a fee of not less than \$1 nor more than \$5 a year, recoverable with costs of suit in any county court : and sec. 22 of the amended Act of 1888 debars the delinquent from voting at elections for the Medical Council. Sec. 35 of the North-West Territories' Act requires a similar fee. In British Columbia, by sec. 53, chap. 81, "every legally qualified medical practitioner shall pay annually to the Medical Council of British Columbia, on or before the 1st day of March in each year, the sum of \$10, and shall obtain from the Registrar of the Council a

certificate under the seal of the said Council of the payment of the same." So it is evident the idea of an annual assessment, enforced by serious penalties, even to the loss of license, is not such an unheard-of regulation as some people have supposed.

It has been claimed by some that not even the Legislature can give the Council power to erase a physician's name from the register ; that having once received a license, he has secured a vested right of which he cannot be deprived. This arises evidently from a confusion of ideas as to the respective rights accruing from a diploma and a license. A man may be said to have a vested interest in his diploma, which is only a certificate of scholarship. But no man can claim to have or to hold a license to carry on any business in a community, except on such reasonable terms as the community may impose. In this country the community acting through its representatives in the Legislature, is the only power that can authorize a person to practise medicine. It has exercised its power by the enactment of certain laws, and only by obedience to the laws so enacted can any person secure or retain a license. And the same power which grants a license may for cause satisfactory to itself suspend or revoke that license.

As to the power of the Council, that body acts only by authority delegated to it from the Legislature. And every practitioner in Ontario, no matter when or how he may have been originally licensed, is practising under permission granted by the Council. He has acknowledged the authority of the Council by applying to it for registration, paying the fee demanded, and receiving its license. It is difficult to understand how he can now repudiate the authority to which he has appealed for permission to practise, and how in fairness and justice he can attempt to evade the duties imposed by that authority while availing himself of the privileges it grants.

But without expressing any opinion as to the wisdom of the law under consideration, it is safe to say that the Council is only acting for the profession, and when the profession demands the repeal of that law the Council will offer no objections. So far the law is sustained unanimously by the territorial representatives in the Council who ought to know the opinions of their constituents, and be prepared to carry them into effect. If they