

Cabinet, shall be the arbiter as to what is or is not a reasonable charge to be made for professional services. The local tariff, while proposed by the Divisional Association, is no longer to be submitted to the Council. It is presumed that the Cabinet knows more about what a fair charge may be than the men who are in practice. Could folly go further? Fancy medical men fixing the scale of fees for the legal profession. Would it not be equally absurd?

The power of erasure is taken from the Council. In fact, it is really difficult to discover what is left for the Council to do. A body without functions or income is not likely to survive for long. Perhaps this may be the real intent of the bill. Fraudulent advertising, habitual drunkenness, transmission of contagion or infection, violation of the Public Health Act, neglecting to register births and deaths, giving false or blank certificates of the cause of death, conviction in any action for damages for any injury caused, negligence, ignorance or want of skill, are all and each to be grounds upon conviction of which a practitioner is to have his name *erased* from the register. The case is to be tried by a judge who is vested with discretionary powers. But the relator or complainant is not necessarily a medical man. Anyone can lay a charge before a magistrate. A man may thus be struck off the register for failing to register a birth if the trial judge so decrees. A man may be subjected to constant annoyance by malicious persons who choose to make charges of violation of the Public Health or Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths Acts. The time of limitation of action for negligence or malpractice is extended from *one* to *two* years.

The last section of this remarkable bill cannot be done justice to by any pen save that of the gentleman responsible for its introduction. Sub-section 3 refers to the penalty for practising without registration and for falsely pretending. The effect of this sixteenth section, if it becomes law, I leave to my fellow-practitioners to imagine and describe. Efforts will be made to place a copy of the bill in its entirety in the hands of every medical man in Ontario. Here is the section as it appears in Mr. Haycock's bill

"16.—(1) Any person, being a woman, who, within six months after the coming into force of this Act, produces before any local board of health a certificate signed by the head of the municipality or by two justices of the peace that she is a person of good character, and who proves by evidence taken on oath before such board that she has successfully performed the office of midwife in at least ten cases of confinement before the passing of this Act, shall be entitled, upon payment of a fee of \$1 to the treasurer of the municipi-