

Among other things, the Commissioner says: "There is also an apprehension that surgery is too often resorted to where it is not strictly necessary; is, in fact, the vogue. If this is true, as to which I can express no opinion, the only preventive lies in some restriction upon the amount to be paid for the operation, and the fixing of that amount after the event, with due regard to the necessity of the operation and the professional skill required and the danger involved. Surgery is only a method of treatment, just as medicine and manipulation, and should be so regarded."

This rule might go some way towards curing this evil so far as it may exist. We do not believe that the charge of doing unnecessary operations is at all well founded. The other statement made about the profession exacting high fees for operations may have more to rest upon, and yet one case may create the impression that such is a common practice. The report then states the following:

"But I am quite convinced that the appointment of a thoroughly competent man of experience and judgment would be of the greatest benefit to both the public and the professions, having regard to the considerations I have mentioned. This appointment should be made by the Provincial Government, after consultation with the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Royal Dental College, respectively, and if possible with their concurrence. The duties should involve the taking of evidence after due notice to the parties and the fixing of the fee. It would be unwise to make this determination wholly final, but it should afford *prima facie* evidence of a reasonable fee in case it is disputed, subject to the leave being obtained summarily from a judge or court, whose jurisdiction would be determined by the amount claimed in one case or fixed in the other, to litigate the question. If leave is so given, then the onus should be upon the party disputing to convince the judge at the trial that it was either too high or too low. This provision would reduce litigation to a minimum, and yet would preserve the right of either party to resort to the court if desired."

This recommendation must be studied very carefully from all aspects before it is adopted. In the first place, the matter of fees is largely a matter of arrangement, the social status of the patient, and the experience and reputation of the physician or surgeon. There must ever be the greatest degree of elasticity in this question. If a provincial scale of fees should be adopted by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, a judicious taxing officer might serve a useful purpose in case of disputed accounts. He could weigh the ability of the person to pay, and the nature of the case, and give advice that might prove valuable, and be the means of avoiding litigation. Such a sort of taxing officer we regard