

"THE POWERS' OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL."

Such is the caption under which the *Toronto Globe* writes an editorial in the issue of July 10th. In order that our readers may have the benefit of the *Globe's* exact position we give the full text of the article. Here it is:

"THE POWERS OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL."

"If it is expedient in the public interest that the Ontario Medical Council should be empowered to erase from the register of licensed medical practitioners the names of doctors found guilty of 'nefarious or disgraceful conduct,' then it must be expedient that it should be empowered to act promptly in those cases brought before it for investigation. It is in the last degree undesirable that unproved or uninvestigated charges of unprofessional or even criminal conduct should be left hanging indefinitely over the heads of practising physicians or surgeons, as may be the case under the present method of procedure.

"The Council meets yearly, and if a charge is made immediately after one meeting an inquiry cannot be ordered until the next one, and another year must then elapse before a report on the case can be made to the Council. To get over this difficulty it was moved at the present Council meeting that the Legislature be asked to amend the law with a view to shortening the interval between the lodging of the information and the final decision of the Council. The remedy proposed was to give the Executive of the Council authority to order an investigation at any time during the interval between two meetings of the Council, and thus make it practicable to have the inquiry completed in time to admit of the Council's giving its decision promptly and finally.

"This proposition was voted down by a large majority, and apparently for no good reason. In the opinion of the Council's solicitor, the by-law at present authorizing the Executive to take action in such cases is *ultra vires*; to amend the Medical Act so as to clothe the Executive with statutory powers would put its authority beyond doubt, but the Council seems afraid to ask for the needed legislation lest a worse thing happen to it. Its fear was well expressed by one member, who spoke of the Legislature as 'a mine which is apt to explode at our feet.'

"The Council evidently feels that its position is invidious, and therefore weak. It is clothed with authority that may do untold harm if it is not wisely exercised. The manner in which the whole subject has been handled at this meeting is not calculated to strengthen the Council in the general public estimation."

The *Globe* is quite in error when it states "The remedy proposed was to give the Executive of the Council authority to order an investigation at any time during the interval between two meetings of Council, and thus make it practicable to have an inquiry completed in time to