

mously by the profession as if a single judge or even the whole of the Judges are allowed with impunity to curtail, as I consider, most unwarrantably a charge that has always hitherto been allowed, and this at a time when every other profession and trade are requiring advanced remuneration to meet the high prices of the necessities of life, we had better at once banish from our thoughts all idea of constitutional Government and make up our minds to submit to autocracy. I had always imagined Judges were created to administer the laws and neither to make, amend, or alter them. I also had the impression that all classes of Her Majesty's subjects were entitled to something like a fair compensation for their trouble and expense in attending as witnesses either for Her Majesty or any private individual £1 3s. 4d. cy., with 1s. per league travelling expenses has hitherto been the fee allowed to medical witnesses, and certainly as the prices of necessities now are this would be little enough in all conscience, at least I can answer for it in my own case, that at this rate of payment I should be a loser of at least £2 per diem. But to take a physician twenty or thirty miles from his practice and detain him four or five days or a week and then pretend to compensate him for his trouble and loss of practice by giving him 11s. 8d., per diem is a perfect absurdity, it is not sufficient to feed his horses. It should be borne in mind that almost every other calling can be carried on for a few days by deputy, but when a physician is called away his whole income ceases and not only that but when he returns all his patients will of necessity be in the hands of another practitioner, and he will perhaps be a week or two before his engagements become as numerous as usual. I am unwilling to suppose we are compelled to put up tamely with this aggression on our rights, and therefore beg to suggest through the medium of your columns that the profession be convoked, if not earlier at least at the next meeting of the Board of Governors for the purpose of adopting such measures as may be deemed expedient to vindicate our rights. I would suggest as one of the earliest measures, that a deputation of City Physicians residing near the seat of Government, should wait on the Provincial Secretary, and lay our case before the Government. Most assuredly if something be not speedily done in the matter the affair will not long remain as it is, for it is evident from his language to Dr. Johnstone, the Judge who cut down the fees one half intends, if we submit tamely to this, to repudiate entirely the payment of medical men ere long.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

F. D. GILBERT, M. R. C. S. L.

In conclusion we have to state that we shall be happy to publish any other suggestions which will tend to awaken the profession to a perception of their just rights, and will open our columns for the insertion of any commo n measures that may be conjointly adopted on the *payment of medical witnesses*, or any other equally vital and urgent subject of professional polity.

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