

time and effort in preparing the bolt which you have now shot, and which, though evidently sped with malicious and deadly intent, will be found to have wholly missed the mark. It is due, also, to the gentlemen with whom, for some months past, I have been associated in the work of medical defence, that I should promptly and explicitly deny that my attack on the Council was, even in the remotest degree, inspired by any motive more unworthy than the simple desire to rectify what, in common with them, I honestly believed to be an injustice and wrong done to the profession. Allow me, therefore, to state :

1. I have never for one moment suspected that my son had been unjustly dealt with either by the Medical Council or by its Board of Examiners.

2. I have never breathed a whisper, or uttered or written a word, either within the bosom of my own family, or publicly or privately elsewhere, which could lead anyone to suppose that I had conceived and harboured such a suspicion.

3. I had neither knowledge nor hint that my son had written to the President of the Council, till the matter came up at its recent meeting.

4. I never saw or heard of his letter, before it was spoken of in the Council and appeared in your journal.

5. I did not know that he had written for his primary and had been rejected on a former occasion.

6. I did know that he was rejected in 1892, because, subsequent thereto, he wrote to me asking whether my letters to the *Mail* could have inspired his rejection. In my reply to him I expressed my conviction that the Council had nothing to do with his rejection—that it lay altogether with the Board of Examiners which was above suspicion and, moreover, had never been attacked, and that the fact, that he had been starred in the same subjects in his University examinations, was a proof, if any were needed, that no injustice whatever had been done to him.

7. At least one prominent member of the Medical Council knew, from my own personal intimation to him to that effect, that I attributed my son's failure at his examinations to causes entirely beyond the control of either the Council or the Board of Examiners. This gentleman was present at the recent meeting, when the scheme was

elaborated, and, had any misapprehension on the part of the Council really existed, could, and doubtless would, have rectified it.

8. As certain expressions made use of in the Council's proceedings are apparently designed to convey the impression that my son is a mere youth—subject to my control and dependent on my means—I may explain that he is nearer to forty than to thirty years of age ; that for eighteen years he has been paying his own way in the world, and shaping his own course therein without reference to me ; that knowing that his talents specially qualify him for success and even eminence in another walk of life, it was against my advice, and in opposition to my wishes that he ever entered on the study of medicine ; that I have been persistently opposed to his continuance in that study ; and that, therefore, except for the lamentable loss to him of money, time and effort which his freak involved, I was prepared to accept gratefully any obstacle that might serve to turn his attention back again to more congenial pursuits. These circumstances explain why I was less minutely informed as to his movements than I otherwise might have been, and, at the same time they accentuate how widely the bolt, fashioned by the Medical Council and launched by you, has missed the mark at which it was aimed.

Many other young men—smarting under injustice fancied or real—have, in like manner, appealed to Council or Senate Presidents, respectfully asking that their grievances might be investigated, and their reasonable prayer has not yet been answered by placing them in the pillory, or by parading the complainants by name with offensive comments, in both the public and the professional press, as was done by the Medical Council in the case of my son. This, as far as my knowledge extends, is the only instance on record, where such a case has been pursued by a public body—reputable or the reverse. The animus prompting it is too evident to escape notice. Before the time when my son presented himself for his first examination, I had the temerity to begin a series of letters over my own signature in the *Mail*, criticising the Medical Council in its public capacity ; I had also the honour of being actively concerned in the formation of the Medical Defence Association and of being intimately identified with it since its