

CANADIAN MEDICAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

AN URGENT APPEAL FOR MEMBERSHIP.

DEAR DOCTOR:—Our annual statement to the meeting held at London, Ont., during the recent session of the Canada Medical Association showed that while the membership increased slightly last year, yet we are far short of our expectations of success as a vigorous society, and we have determined once more to make an effort to arouse our brethren to a sense of the importance of our undertaking.

In every instance that we have undertaken to defend one of our members in the Courts we have succeeded, but as it has been pointed out again and again, the legal expenses are heavy and though we have won, the costs have had to be met inasmuch as the Plaintiffs were Sheriff proof and worth nothing. Since our organization we have paid out in this way \$1,026. Our Exchequer is now practically empty as we owe our bank balance to our Solicitors. Our recent successful suit in defending Dr. Watts at the Cornwall Assizes has brought us in a further bill of costs of 250 dollars which must be met in all fairness to Dr. Watts, and while we are appealing for assistance to the profession at large we are notified of another writ at Gananoque where one of our members is sued for a case of death from Tetanus following a vaccination. If our good work of assisting a brother attacked for malpractice is to go on we must look to the general profession to join us and by their annual fee put the Executive in a position to defend. This appeal is urgent and while Jan. 1st is the date upon which we expect men to join, we are compelled to ask for the 1904 fees now. Everywhere an occasion offers we are encouraged by promises of support to go on, and we realize that it is thoughtlessness only that keeps our list so small.

We confidently look for a greatly increased list of members this year, otherwise we will be obliged to cease our existence as the Executive cannot be expected to make themselves personally liable for legal expenses.