

bursements of the Medical Council. I have only further to add, in this connection, that I have, in this letter, incidentally laid bare a course of extravagance on the part of the Medical Council which ought to promptly relegate every one of the elected members to private life. The Appointees and Homeopaths were practically irresponsible, and they, doubtless, proceeded on the assumption that whenever more money became necessary, it could, at any time, be obtained by more diligently milking the professional cow—the operation being aided, possibly, by such patent suction appliances, and legislative persuaders, as the Amendments to the Medical Act procured in 1891. Better things, however, might have been expected from the territorial representatives. Yet, Sir, I defy you to point out, in the entire series of stenographic, or other reports of Council proceedings, a single word of expostulation, uttered by any one of them, against financial mismanagement, unlawful speculation, or the unnecessary expansion of the annual disbursements.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN H. SANGSTER.

Port Perry, Feb. 2nd, 1894.

DR. CHRISTOE'S LETTER.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

MR. EDITOR, If you should ask me my opinion regarding the large building erected for the purposes of the Medical Council, your paragraph in your last issue, viz., "The needs of the Council to secure ample accommodation for the examination of students, made the erection of a building, such as we have at present, absolutely necessary," would very much collide with the *sound* judgment of the profession. At all events, its erection, without the sanction of the profession, evidenced a very great want of consideration.

In many elective bodies, municipal and others, provisions exist, guarding the reckless collection and expenditure of large sums of money; and by laws, before finally passed, must be submitted to the people for their sanction. I do not hesitate to say that common prudence should have dictated such a course to the Council. But, surely, Sir, you will not, on sound business principles, justify the expenditure. It would be an imposition on one's credulity to make an ordinary person believe

in its necessity. It is a costly ornament for such a limited use, and a standing monument to someone's folly for all time to come. It constitutes the Council as a real estate agency, for I dare say it advertises offices to let in large letters, but the profession have to pay the piper.

Is it any marvel, then, that thoughtful men should on this line call a halt? The tremendous whistling and wriggling required to explain away the natural and inevitable sequences of this crooked matter prove that a grave error has been perpetrated.

It is puzzling, too, to know just the position of the ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL. Is it shadowed by the Council completely, and bound to support its theories, right or wrong? Or does it exist for and on behalf of the general profession? If the latter, it is difficult to understand the harpooning which writers, who disagree with the Council, receive at its hands. I have noticed this particularly in the case of Dr. Sangster. Every man is entitled to courtesy, under editorial supervision, so scantily administered in his case. I am no apologist for the Doctor, although agreeing with him on many pertinent points; and I believe, notwithstanding the odious reference to his educational status, he as yet suffers nothing by comparison. As a shrewd debater, critical observer, and fearless champion of right, his compeer in your pages has yet to appear.

As to the tax and its increase, with the history, intelligent members could scarcely be expected to lend themselves to perpetuate such unexampled expenditure, the principle involved forbids it. No exception will be taken in supporting the Council efficiently under economical expenditure. The tax should be based upon approximate requirements annually, and whatever the sum required, whether fifty cents or two dollars, let it be collected. A method like this would prevent accumulations and unreasonable expenditures.

It strikes one very forcibly, to make the Council what it was designed to be, for purposes of finance, education and progress, men must be elected who are qualified, independently of the schools, to do their own business, to practise economy, and, if possible, remedy the wrongs already existing. I am pleased to note that the signs are in that direction. With congratulations at your success