

this business, brought on as it has been at the end of the meetings when the members have already had a long sitting, has been objectionable and is possibly one of the causes why the attendance has tended to fall off. This may indeed, be one of the causes. Nevertheless it has been extremely difficult to lessen that business. Your Council has striven to cut the business part of the proceedings to the very smallest possible volume. It has, however, been extremely difficult to refuse to consider these matters of professional or public interest brought before us.

I can only suggest that in the future when in the course of the regular scientific work of the society or otherwise, matters are brought up upon which the society feels it should take action, those matters be referred back to the Council with instructions not to come before the society until everything in connection with such matters has been cleared up, or in other words that the Council be given fuller powers to carry on the business of the society. Secondly, the undoubted discomfort of the seats and the relative misery in which members found themselves during the meetings, has, I cannot but think, been a serious factor. Members were willing to stand the discomfort for one year but not for two. In the third place, the amount of business, as already indicated, may have had something to do with the matter, and in the fourth, the late notification of the programmes.

But here let me say that for this late distribution I cannot hold the secretary to blame. It has been the fault of those who, having promised contributions, have at the last moment failed to fulfil their promises. At nearly every meeting last term, the secretary found himself at the last moment through this conduct on the part of contributors, obliged to telephone or rush round in order to fill up the programme.

There remains the pious duty of calling to mind the loss sustained by the society in the death of one of its most constant and most interested members, the late Dr. Thomas D. Reed. Few members attended so regularly, few showed themselves so widely read in the by-paths and even the main paths of medicine than he did, and for years he served the society officially as its honorary librarian. We miss his nervous manner and his familiar face at our meetings. In the late Dr. C. O'Connor we have with equal suddenness lost one of our younger members who had before him a future full of promise.

Lastly, I cannot sit down without cordially thanking the other officers of the society for the aid given during the past session. No one can have had a better and more energetic secretary to do all the hard work of his office, than I had in Dr. Bazin, and I doubt if any medical society on this continent possesses a more business-like and capable treasurer than Dr. Jack has for many years shown himself to be.