

tain it in a solvent condition, and I welcome this opportunity to invite your earnest co-operation in enlarging its membership and strengthening the hands of the Executive, and would to this end suggest that a special committee be struck during the Convention for the purpose of considering how best to enlist the sympathies and support of our brethren who are not yet members. I cannot but think that a large increase in the membership must inevitably result if the aims of the Association be once rightly understood.

The objects of the Association are such as all can subscribe to. It is not intended to defend or assist in defending unworthy members, or those who are actually guilty of malpractice, or who have brought discredit upon the profession. It aims rather to assist the worthy, those of its members who are wrongfully charged and whose character and reputation are placed at stake; and also to deter irresponsible and unscrupulous persons from bringing action against members of the profession for the purpose of spiting or injuring them, or of exacting a bribe for their silence; and it is only by uniting ourselves together in such a way as this Association offers that we can hope to secure the support of our brethren and become immune to many attacks which would otherwise be made upon us.

I feel, therefore, that we have but to devise some plan of arousing the interest of our brethren in the matter to ensure their support and co-operation.

And now a word or two as to the Federal Health Bill. Thanks to the energetic efforts of the special committee appointed to attend to this matter considerable progress has been made towards the attainment of our desires on this behalf. The interest and sympathy of the Minister of the Crown have been secured, and the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Fisher, under whose department the matter more directly falls, has taken the matter up most courteously and is thoroughly alive to its urgency and need. For the information of those not familiar with this subject, I would briefly say that the Association, at its meeting in Montreal in 1902, placed itself on record by resolution to the effect that it is expedient that a Department of Public Health be created by the Dominion Government and administered under the authority of one of the existing Ministers of the Crown, thus bringing all general questions relating to sanitary science and public health under one central authority to be known as the Public Health Department. There is no need for me to dwell upon the importance or desirability of this step; it must commend itself to every member of the profession.

Thus far the Government has not seen its way clear to grant the desired measure. The work is not yet accomplished, and the need of