

The "Solid Phalanx," the "Inner Circle," and the "Head Centres," have an existence in his *mind* only, or as figures of speech. Each individual member thinks for himself, speaks for himself, and votes as he pleases, with the exception of the "Little Phalanx" led by Dr. Sangster. There are indications that the energy of individual intelligence will crumble even this little party into its original atoms. Medical men are bad subjects to keep in leading-strings by even so accomplished a leader as the doctor.

Why is so large a share of this letter devoted to me, instead of to the general good? The doctor has supplied the reason. Last June, during the meeting of the Council, I entered a protest against discourteous methods of discussing questions. Our friend was hit, and has "nursed his wrath and kept it warm" until December. Was he justly hit? We will allow him to supply the answer. "Words or expressions of this kind sting, I suppose, only in proportion to their applicability—only in proportion to the amount of truth they incase." According, then, to the doctor, he was "*stung*"; the words must have been "*applicable*," and "*incased*" considerable truth, hence the zeal to explain them away.

The doctor in his letter is to be admired not more for the beauty of diction and elegance of style than for the masterly exhibition of sophistry. None know better than he, few as well, that to get at the purport and meaning of a word, it must be read with the context. Yet he cleverly seizes the word "*plausible*," drags it from its connections, and proceeds to castigate both it and the user in a most dexterous manner. The poor word, by the aid of Worcester, Campbell, and Whately, is made to mean "*specious*" and "*humbug*;" and finally, with the assistance of Locke, he gets it to be nothing less than "*lying*."

At the risk of being tedious, we will quote a few sentences from the June speech that the reader may get at the connections. "I do not sympathize very strongly with Dr. Sangster in the view he has expressed, and I want to say this, that Dr. Sangster or any other member, who wishes to be a reformer, and who wants to get his views to prevail in the Council, should not first have insinuated improper motives to all the other members of the Council. His correct method, if he wishes to make a success and be a reformer, is to put his views in such a reasonable and '*plausible*' way that they will commend themselves to the whole of the members of the Council." Now what does "*plausible*" mean in this connection? Funk & Wagnalls' dictionary gives several meanings to choose from, according to the shade of meaning we wish to convey. One is, "*calculated to win*