

object of this proposed Association? How is this object to be accomplished? Is it advisable for members of the profession to join the Association?

The object of the Association is very easily defined. It is simply to protect members of the profession from unjust prosecution for malpractice. This certainly is a laudable object and one that ought to meet with the approval of every member of the profession. We all know how trivial and unfounded have been some of the actions for malpractice brought against skilful practitioners. Anyone in general practice is liable to have such a charge laid against him. In such cases the party bringing the action is often financially worthless, and so whether the medical man wins or loses the case he is bound to lose financially. This is manifestly unfair. The object of the proposed Association is to come to the aid of any practitioner who is a member of the Association and who has had such an action entered against him. No one, we feel, can or will find fault with this proposal.

How is it proposed to carry out the object of the Association? First of all, funds are necessary. How are they to be raised? By levying an annual fee upon each member of the Association. This is fair. Every member of the Association would have a guarantee of assistance in case he had an unjust action brought against him. But what assurance will the members have that the Association will not be taken advantage of by unworthy members who will expect financial assistance to defend an action against them for just cause? The constitution of the proposed Association provides for such cases. No case is to be taken up by the Association until a committee appointed for that purpose has fully and carefully investigated the circumstances and reported to the Association that in the opinion of the members of the committee the practitioner accused of malpractice has used ordinary care and skill in the management of the case and that, therefore, he ought to be assisted by the Association in defending his reputation. Herein may arise the danger to the Association. Unless great care is exercised in selecting the committee of investigation the Association may be drawn into assisting a practitioner to defend an action which has