

a hard judgment, not warranted by the evidence listened to, or my explanation of the responsibility for the action taken. Mentioning this, and having in mind the asking for a recommendation of the rider, I was told that I "had tried to let the doctor down easy." The reporters did not make it look like that in the papers next morning.

It is easy to see now that an infinite amount of trouble would have been saved had a coroner been asked to look, with the medical attendant, into the circumstances which surrounded the death. Unnecessary inquests are seldom held in Ontario. There need be neither expense nor publicity; and I am in a position to know that this, rather than the course you mention, is the one usually followed after suspicious deaths.

In reply to the rest of your editorial, permit me to point out that coroners' juries neither try nor pass sentence upon criminals. It was the clear duty of this one to present Gamble for the murder of Elizabeth Bray, and my duty to send him on to a court which could and did give him a fair trial. Though circumstantial largely, the evidence against him had all the elements of reliability. There was the motive for the deed, the means, the opportunity, the declared intent, and then the confession of the attempt. If there had been any undue desire to convict, I should not have kept back evidence of the most direct kind as to Gamble's previous experience in relieving a victim of his lust of the products of conception. This was not admitted, since it would have created unfair prejudice against him. With a true bill from the Grand Jury, a unanimous verdict of murder from the jury that tried him, and a life-sentence from the Minister of Justice, who decided with all the evidence before him, my action in charging that there was sufficient evidence to connect Gamble with the abortion and death of Elizabeth Bray was sustained. I do not claim that the medical evidence against him was unclouded by doubt. There was room for doubt, and of this doubt he should have had the benefit at his final trial. Upon equally strong evidence I shall charge against the next abortionist whose connection with a death I am called upon to investigate; and in doing so I shall count upon the influential support of THE

PRACTITIONER. With or without that support, when the line of duty lies as clearly before me as it did in this case, I shall take it and take the consequences.

Yours respectfully,

N. A. POWELL.

### TRINITY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

To the Editors of THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.

GENTLEMEN,—In an editorial article on the Bill recently passed by the Legislature of Ontario, to amend the Act incorporating Trinity Medical School, you made a statement which I desire to correct. You speak of a clause having been added to the bill during its progress through the House, giving the school power to grant "*Degrees*, not only to its own students, but also to students or graduates of other schools or universities." You further say, "This simply means granting to this school University powers." . . . Now what is the fact? Trinity Medical School, ever since its incorporation, has held annual examinations and given a certificate of qualification to those who passed the severe ordeal to which they were subjected, for the examinations held were as thorough as they could be made. The standard was purposely made very high from the first, so as to guarantee that students passing it, should take a high position before the Medical Council, and other examining or graduating bodies whose license or degrees they might desire to obtain.

Occasionally during the past few years application has been made by medical men, sometimes long in practice, or who had just finished their studies, and who had not attended Trinity School as students, for permission to go up for this examination. These have been refused without exception. But as to refuse so simple and reasonable a request seemed hard and arbitrary, it was thought desirable, by the addition of the words "or others" to one of the sections of the Act of Incorporation, to be able hereafter, to admit such applicants to the same examinations which Trinity students undergo. Be it remembered the certificate awarded to successful candidates carries no *license to practise* with it. Nor do we ever desire to see the *licensing power* given either to ourselves, or to