

which is apt to come is to get the matter settled as quickly and, consequently, with as little publicity as possible. And we ask the question, would it not be better to pay something at once and get out of the difficulty? My answer is No! A thousand times no, so long as we feel that we have done our duty and are therefore morally irresponsible.

It is the duty, and ought to be the desire, of each member of the profession to suppress by every possible means all such actions which are so fraught with injustice, not only to the individual, but also to the profession as a whole. Just so soon as a certain class of the public and those who advocate their claims in court understand that we do not listen to their "bluff,"—that they in order to possibly gain anything must fight every inch of the ground against a united profession—then, and not till then, will the members of our profession be relieved largely, if not entirely, of a most painful annoyance, as well as, to many of us, a severe financial loss.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. CONERTY.

Smith's Falls, December, 1899.

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[We extend our sympathy to Dr. Conerty in this very annoying case. We are confident that we voice the sentiments of our fellow practitioners, when we say that too many members of our profession have been thus put to trouble and expense, and have had their reputations thus assailed by irresponsible parties who previously had received the best of care from a surgeon and had at the same time neglected to pay his small fee. It is hard to say how such cases should be dealt with. We agree with Dr. Conerty that in justice to the individual against whom the action is brought, and in the interests of the profession generally, the case must be defended to the utmost. For once let it be known to the public that all anyone has to do in order to force a settlement from a practitioner, is to enter an action for mal-practice and there would be no end of such actions by irresponsible parties whose aim is money, not justice. The defense of such a case then being in the interest of the profession at large, it seems to us that the practitioners of the Province should come to the financial assistance of any confrere who is