

progress, and if they were in the past too opportune, if too rash and careless, we will forgive them if by humility of heart they seek forgiveness, and by advantages secured by honest contrition the whole profession benefit.

In the meantime let us present the medal to Dr. Ryerson.

Yours truly,

Lindsay, Ont.

P. PALMER BURROWS.

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*To the Members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.*

GENTLEMEN,—The Medical Defence Association was formed three years ago for the vindication of your rights and the furtherance of your interests, and it has already in that direction reached results to which it can point with honest pride. It has largely disabused the profession of the idea that the injustice and other manifold evils of the past *regime* were a fate to be meekly accepted without useless resistance. It has awakened the medical electorate to a saving sense of the degradation involved in a tame submission to indignity and wrong, and has nerved it to self-assertion and a strike for freedom. It has satisfied most of you—perhaps, indeed, all of you except those too apathetic to read and investigate, or too subject to extra-professional considerations to be open to conviction—that the Medical Council has, heretofore, been controlled, and is still liable to be greatly influenced, by a grasping and dominant clique, whose power therein needs not only to be strenuously opposed, but to be either abolished *in toto*, or very seriously curtailed, if your most vital interests are to be protected and advanced. It has prompted you to inquire why of all professions that of medicine should be the most overcrowded and the most notably hampered, with an increasingly large annual influx of new recruits; and to find the answer chiefly in the fact that the composition of the Council favors, and the easy subserviency of your elected representatives therein permits, the existence of the evil. It has created among you a widespread and a growing desire for clean and economical government, and it has animated you with an invincible determination to rest content, ultimately, with nothing short of professional independence. By the beneficial changes it has procured in the Ontario Medical Act, it has placed the future destinies of the profession chiefly in your own hands. It has, practically, given you the control of the Council, as soon as you shall have determined that no uncertain or weak-fibred candidate for election thereto shall receive your suffrages at the polls. It has ventured to remind you that