

With regard to taking action against certain doctors, we think the council acted wisely in going slowly. It is easier to make a mistake than to get out of it. In one case the officers of the council did not know the whereabouts of the doctor, and could not serve him with papers. In such a condition of affairs the council could not act. There is not the least doubt but that things will become clarified by waiting a little while. By adopting this course the council will be able to move with certainty.

In the other case, as we understand it, there was an action tried against the doctor. He was acquitted at the time of trial. This being the case it behooves the council to be specially careful. We have no sympathy with infamous and unprofessional conduct; but we would not wish to see the council take rash and hasty action, which could not be sustained. This has been done in the past with very bad results. As Dr. E. M. Cook could not be served it was deemed wise to allow any action in the case of Dr. D. W. Shier to stand over.

A careful study of the proceedings of the council will show that some wise changes were made in the curriculum. These were a higher standard of matriculation, and that some latitude be shown in the case of students who do well on most subjects and only fail by a narrow margin on others. The fifth year is to be as practical as possible, and not to be burdened by a course of lectures. We think this is exceedingly sane and also humane. But of the fifth year must be spent in a hospital or with a qualified practitioner. The course of instruction on children's diseases was lengthened. A course of two months' duration was added on electricity. The council condemned the asking of catchy questions.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN ONTARIO.

The report of the Provincial Board of Health goes to show that certain contagious diseases were rather more prevalent than usual. It is estimated that in Ontario there were about 1,000 cases of typhoid fever during the month of October, 1907. This is certainly very high. The deaths reported for that month were 123. The cause is attributed to pollution of water supplies. This is a very high toll to pay for culpable carelessness.

During the month of October there were 50 cases of smallpox in the counties of Elgin, Bruce, Frontenac, Grey, Simcoe, Waterloo, York, and Peterborough. All this sickness and expense is the result of wilful disobedience to the laws of preventive medicine. There were no deaths, but there was enough sickness, loss of time and expense to pay ten thousand times over for the inconvenience of having been properly vaccinated.