

wards, when the ordinary rules of precedence and common courtesy would demand that the attending staff have the first privilege? The private wards of the Montreal General Hospital are about ten or twelve in number, the members of the attending medical staff who give their services gratuitously to the hospital are about twenty; for this they have, then, the privilege of half a private ward each during their time of service. Would it not be an act inexpressibly mean and contemptible to deprive them of this one poor little recognition of their services to the institution and to the public.

It would be interesting to know the real motives of those who pretend so much zeal for the welfare of the public, when there is apparently so little to be gained by the success of their schemes. Their efforts to influence public opinion through the sensational columns of the daily press are, to say the least, undignified and unworthy of a profession supposed to occupy a position above the level of ward politicians. A fair sample of the staff supplied to the public by one of these penny-a-liners is to be seen in the *Daily Herald* of March 1st. His fervent imagination pictures a respectable citizen found unconscious in the street and hurried by the ubiquitous ambulance to the hospital, where he regains consciousness and cries aloud for his own doctor. His prayers are unheeded and he is forced to accept the aid of some monopolist in whom he has no confidence, though he "*pays amply for the privilege of a private ward.*" In the very next paragraph comes the astonishing statement that a private hospital could not compete with the private wards of the Montreal General or Royal-Victoria Hospitals because they would be obliged to charge six or seven dollars for the accommodation these institutions furnish for two or three dollars per diem!! Which statement is correct? As a matter of fact, the hypothetical patient would, on recovering consciousness, thank his stars he had fallen into such good hands, and his convalescence would be cheered by the reflection that he was saving four or five dollars every day of his detention.

One of the worst features of this resolution is that it asks the society as a whole to formulate a request to the authorities in control of the Montreal General Hospital, which has for its object the benefit, real or imaginary, of certain members of the society, to the detriment of other members of the same. There could be no more certain way of creating discord in the society at a time when, as we all know, harmony and unanimity are essential to its existence.

Supposing the resolution were adopted and forwarded to the hospital authorities, what would be the position of the medical board? It would be this. Most of its members are undoubtedly opposed to extending the privilege of using the private wards to the profession at large, but