

tion on Sept. 1880, was approved by the Lieut.-Governor in Council on May 1881; but was repealed by the Provincial Legislature early in 1882, owing to the opposition made to it in some districts by the electors, on the ground that the tariff was too high. The governors resident in the cities of Quebec and Montreal made a vigorous effort to have the Medical Act amended by the insertion of a clause giving power to the members of the College to form distinct associations, which should have the right to make a tariff for their respective districts, subject to approval by the Provincial Medical Board; but this also failed. The Act, however, remains unchanged, and the College has the right to make a tariff subject to approval by the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council.

It is quite possible that hereafter a tariff which shall embrace only a few of the ordinary items, such as visits, consultations, certificates, mileage, etc., may be prepared that shall be acceptable to the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council—*i.e.* the ministry of the day; but may I be permitted to remind my colleagues that while a tariff under such sanction has important uses, the chief of which is to protect alike the interests of the public and of their servants—the physicians—the profession must after all make its own rate of charges; and there must be no undermining of a brother's reputation, no underselling to attract patients, no contracts for wholesale attendance and cheap medicine; such practices may do for hotel touters, for representatives of bogus insurance companies, but are unworthy of the members of a liberal profession.

If a medical society were established in the various districts, a fair sale of fees might be agreed upon amongst its members as adopted to the social condition of the inhabitants, and usage would give such scale the force of law, if the members of the profession would favorably assist one another. I do not mean to overcharge, but to charge a reasonable fee for valuable service.

As becomes a body representing the profession of medicine—a profession the constant aim and desire—*raison d'être* of which is to preserve life, prevent disease, and avert death; the