

strictly and solely on its merits, and to vote accordingly. And if, therefore, instead of simply rallying my friend Dr. Williams on his now famous production—I had been disposed to treat it in a more serious vein—I might have asked your many readers to consider the hardihood of any man sent to that Council to guard the rights and interests of the profession pleading his personal disrelish for the language employed as a valid excuse for shirking the clear and obvious behests of official duty. It is, however, hardly possible that any one of the gentlemen concerned will now venture to insult the intelligence of his constituents by parading this studiously sought-for plea in extenuation of an alliance, or of a course of procedure, certainly adverse to the vital interests committed to his charge. For the rest, Dr. Williams' suddenly developed inappetency for "spice" would command more respectful consideration if it were more impartial or less paroxysmal—if, while so intolerant of the mildly spiced syllables of his opponents, he were more careful to avoid the very mordant appellatives he himself so frequently applies to others, and, especially, if he did not gulp, not only without a grimace, but with evident gusto, the somewhat coarsely cayenned elegancies that occasionally fall, in the Council chamber, from the cultured lips of one or other of his University associates of the Inner Circle.

When tempted into this digression, I was discussing the composition, power, mission and animus of the Executive Committee of the Council, and I had promised to show that, in its present shape, and as at present controlled, the interests of the medical electorate are not safe in its hands, being liable to be sacrificed, at any moment, at the behests of the schools. To this latter task I proceed now to address myself.

Up to the present year the requirements of the Council, as *published* on the first page of the Regulations in the Annual Announcement, state that every intending student in medicine shall matriculate, and shall become registered as a matriculate in the Council books, and that he shall *thereafter* spend in actual professional study two years before he is eligible to take the Primary, and four years before he can present himself for the Intermediate or Professional examination. One of the changes engineered into the Act by the schools last spring lets down this particular panel of the fence so that now, and hereafter, a man who has never matriculated at all may present himself for the Primary examination, and two years subsequently—provided he matriculates in the interim—he may claim admission to the Intermediate or Professional examination. The meaning of which is that a student no longer needs to spend, after matriculation, a period of four years in