

petual free advertisement in the Register and in the Annual Announcements, that once upon a time John Doe or Richard Roe was for one year President of the Ontario Medical Council. Probably most men, under these circumstances, would eschew the doubtful honor; but, unhappily, there are some so constituted as to be emulous of securing it, and who are ever ready to play Man Friday to any combination which holds the power of conferring it. Thus it happens that both the President and Vice-President of the Medical Council, as at present constituted, are bound to be men who neither owe nor profess to owe any fealty to the medical electorate, or who, owing such fealty, have obtained these positions by proving recreant to it. From a professional point of view the result is, in several important respects, most unfortunate. The recreancy of a few elected men deprives the electorate of that substantive and controlling voice in the management of its own affairs which, it was fondly supposed, the Act of 1893 had secured to it. By making the presidency the reward of subserviency, as far as the territorial men are concerned, a fatal blow is aimed at all freedom and independence of debate. And by making the President, though nominally an officer of the Council, in reality the creature of a clique, his rulings and decisions as presiding officer are so colored as to make them in many cases less than worthless, since, however preposterous and unparliamentary they may be, they are sure of being sustained by the Solid Phalanx by whom he was appointed and in whose interests he officially exists. Some very notable examples of this may hereafter come up for review.

But the disastrous effects of the system become far more highly accentuated when it is remembered that the President and Vice-President are *ex-officio* members of every Council committee except that on Discipline, and that they and the Head Centre of the homœopathic wing of the Inner Circle constitute, not by law, but by usage, the entire Executive Committee, and that consequently the profession is, in effect, barred from having a voice in that ruling triad. If the school-men and the homœopaths are naturally anxious to put only men imbued with their own views, or men of approved pliability, into these positions, surely the profession, as it becomes more keenly alive to its vital interests, will see to it that its representatives shall, as far as their power goes, insist upon higher qualifications, on the part of their presiding officer, than even the most exalted capacity for subordinating the interests of the public and of the medical electorate to those of the medical schools.

But does this Executive Committee, in which the profession, as I have shown, has no substantive or loyal voice, thus misuse its privi-