

in a municipality we select twelve of the most estimable men, elect them as municipal councillors, before the first year is ended, they are incompetents and noodles; and if they unfortunately continue in power for three years or more, they need not be surprised to learn from the criticising public that they are murderers, or worse. Members of this Council must not hope to escape from a like fate.

We think that one reason why the actions of the Council are misunderstood, is because of a want of inter-communication between it and the profession. As you are aware, it is not possible to get any considerable number of the medical men together, for the purpose of allowing their representatives to address them on the questions likely to come before the Council. The public press can scarcely be expected to deal with these subjects to any great extent, because it caters to the entire public, and can not be expected to give great space to questions interesting only to some 2,100 medical men. We would think that the medical press would be placed in a somewhat different position; that their highest interests would be to afford such information as would be beneficial to the members of the profession. But while we, as outsiders, think so, the editors, upon whom rests the responsibility of managing the papers, apparently do not look at the question in the same light; for we find the merest epitome of the Council proceedings is all that goes out to the profession; and they are left without that light, on the proceedings of the Council, which they are anxious to get and ought to receive.

Because of this want of publicity, or largely because of it, a misconception exists with the public, as well as with many members of the profession, as to the utility of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. It is not uncommon to hear from the public, that it is a huge monopoly gotten up and maintained for the benefit of the profession, to the detriment of the public; and from the profession, we not infrequently hear that free trade in medicine is a desideratum.

I need not say to you, that this is a great mistake, not only in so far as the public are concerned, but also the profession; for the public are the beneficiaries in the first place, and the medical men, in a secondary sense, receive more than compensation for all they have been called upon to contribute to the funds of the College. That we may understand to what extent the public and the profession are interested, it may be wise to hastily review some steps which have led up to the present status, and to mention some of the difficulties that we have had to overcome. To understand this fully, we must look to the status of the profession previous to 1865, the date of the first Act by which the Council was established. We practically had free trade in medicine, though not in the letter of the law. We had three medical schools in Ontario. We had three licensing boards, including Eclectic and Homœopathic. Each one of these had its own standard,