

resurrected, but let the blame be on those who do the act. An honorable profession must not be tarnished with impunity.

Yours truly,

WILLIAM LOVETT.

Ayr, Oct. 5th, 1894.

MEDICAL ETHICS.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR.—Your issue of March contained a letter from Dr. Newall, of Wyoming, on Medical Ethics that, to my mind, was not out of place in the present temper of the members of the profession, and, with your permission, I would like to mention another instance of violation of honor and decency, if not of law; and I think that the Discipline Committee of the Council should have power to deal with all such without mercy. I refer to instances where a medical man sells his property and practice to another and agrees not to set up practice again within, say, twenty miles of his former residence; then deliberately, wickedly, and with malice aforethought, hangs out his shingle and begins business inside of, perhaps, half the distance agreed upon. I know of one or two cases where this was done, and I am told that the law gives no redress in such cases, but surely the Council could, especially when there is a written agreement between the contracting parties. I would like very much to hear your opinion on this matter in the next JOURNAL.

Yours truly,

London.

J. L. BROWN.

SPONTANEOUS CURE.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—I am of opinion that when the medical profession of Ontario laid aside their differences in sects and parties and united to bring the Medical Council into existence, they did the best thing that was possible, not so much for themselves as for the people generally of this province.

Now, after having got the Medical Council, we ought not to give it a grudging support. There are always vanity-struck and quarrelsome people everywhere; while some find fault with the Medi-

cal Council examinations, others do so with its real estate transactions, etc.

But the question is, has it done its duty or tried to do it? I think it has, and will continue to do so.

One among the small things it has done, was the procuring and sending the ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL to every member of the profession in Ontario, and later, to all in British Columbia; soon, I hope, to every medical man in our Dominion, when it will no longer be a small, but a *big thing*.

You ask us for contributions; I think we should assist you in making this journal interesting. I propose offering the report of a very singular case of spontaneous cure of a strangulated hernia which I saw twenty-five years ago, and which has not been reported:

J. D., aged fifty-three years, now living in this village; married, and the father of thirteen children. He works at the trade of stonemason; handles the heavy hammer breaking stone; lifts them on the wall; is industrious; works hard; is strong and healthy. At the age of twenty-two he was married, and lived about ten miles west of this place in the township of Windham, county of Norfolk, where he worked as a lumberman, sometimes in the woods and sometimes in the saw mills. He was living thus with his wife and three children when he had his first and only sickness. In February, 1868, he was suddenly and violently seized with strangulated hernia. He sent for the late Dr. Sparrow, of Teeterville. He failed to reduce the hernia, and sent for the late Dr. Carroll, of Norwich, and together they failed to relieve his sufferings. The case was allowed to go to suppuration and was then opened. It was a day or two, perhaps two or three days, after it was opened (I report this from memory, not from notes) that Dr. Sparrow asked me to see the case with him, with the view of preventing a permanent artificial anus. He told me that an operation was refused until he was satisfied sphacelus had taken place, and then did not want to operate any more than to open the abscess, as he had done. He said as soon as the abscess was opened, the pain and incessant vomiting ceased at once, the appetite returned, and at the time I saw him, his strength was returning so that he seemed