

## THE MEDICAL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION AND ITS OBJECTS.

*To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.*

DEAR SIR,—I have been asked to state briefly the objects of the Medical Defence Association.

The Medical Defence Association consists of a goodly number of leading practitioners throughout the Province, in whose ranks are to be found past members of the Medical Council, members of Parliament and others who have taken an active interest in and been identified with many of the most important movements in the progress of our profession in the past.

Necessarily when circumstances arise, which justify the union of such a member of the profession for some definite, concerted action, it becomes the duty of everyone to make inquiry into the conditions which provoke such actions. Into these our confreres are invited to enquire.

The objects of the Defence Association are, to secure the removal of recent amendments to and other sections of the Medical Act, which they believe to be objectionable to the best interests of the profession in many ways. Such as the old section No. 27, giving power to make a limited tax annually upon all who pass the Council's examinations, for that body's proper support: the recent action of the Council doubling this same disputed fee, and currently known as the "double or quit" resolution: the issuing of a yearly certificate called the "pill pedlar's license," to practise upon conditions which the Defence Association consider intolerable: as also the Council's action in placing in the hands of a single individual (one of its employees), no matter how worthy he may be, the autocratic power, under certain circumstances, of cutting off the professional head of every practitioner in the Province.

The Defence Association also voices that latent conviction in the profession, which has been forcing itself stronger and stronger to the front every Council election, that the present number of elected members (twelve) are not sufficient in influence or strength to rule the Council, when it comes to a question of Medical School interest, against that of the general practitioner: invariably succumbing to the mixed blandishments and snubbing, alternate hospitalities and cool indiffer-

ences practised so skilfully on them, the result being that the Council is ruled by the teachers sent there by bodies not representing the interests of the profession, and often opposed to them; that it is desirable to increase the number of elected members from twelve to seventeen: that all election disputes be referred to the County Judge, and not to a member of the profession; that however justified past Councils may have thought they were in involving the profession in the immense expense of the present building, or all the pressing need of funds which the Council says exists (though the Treasurer states the contrary), it is claimed by the Defence Association, such a condition could not exist (if it really does) if proper financial skill had been used. That the duty of this Council was not to attempt extorting from students and the profession, but to relieve them of the burden of this building, year by year growing more irksome, and cut down the expenses wherever possible.

They hold that the Council should have only one confirmatory final examination: that tests of the progress of a student are nothing to the Council nor the public, and may be safely left to the teachers of medical subjects, who will take good care their students go fully prepared to the Council's final test: that so many examinations are needless, expensive and vexatious; that neither the public or profession are interested in the elementary steps leading up to this examination; that universities having medical faculties engaged in active teaching, send one of that faculty as its representative to the Council annually, so long as its faculty is actually teaching with a full staff: that this representative will assume in his person the duties performed by the two representatives heretofore sent from university and medical faculty: that no one will be received from any university Senate, not approved of by its medical faculty; that no teacher in any university or medical school, no one holding any position upon any faculty, nor connected in any function with any school where medical students are being taught, shall *hold any office whatsoever* in the control of the Council.

That the term of office for the elected members be reduced from five to three years.

That all notices of motion relating to any