

matter before our solicitor, and if he gives us the advice that it is libellous, to start and go ahead, and make them apologize and retract what they have stated. I brand as false, in every sense of the word, that there was any money spent for champagne or otherwise, by the Legislative Committee, in 1891, in getting the Medical Act amended. I brand as false that there was any undue influence used. I state emphatically that the doctors in the House on that occasion were in favour, almost to a man, of giving us the legislation we got. I state emphatically there was nothing done in any way, shape, manner or form, but what was fair and above board and honest in getting that legislation. I state also that the legislation was asked for for the benefit of the whole profession of medicine of Ontario. We asked for nothing that was wrong; nor would the doctors in the House, or the Premier of Ontario, or the members of the Legislative Assembly, have given us any legislation which could be in any way approached under the category which is indicated in this article. I wish to state this because the time is close at hand when there will necessarily be an election in the profession of medicine for the members of this Council. These statements going out will be read by many members of the profession, and they have already gained a certain amount of prejudice against this Council, owing to the unwarranted and unworthy statements made from time to time by the *Mail*, and I am very sorry and regret very bitterly to see a paper which we all like to respect stooping to such a level as to have become the gutter for all the rubbish which has been poured into it against this Council for the last number of years.

Dr. BERGIN—I have just read the article hurriedly and hastily, and I find it is so full of mis-statements, not to say falsehoods, that I think it perhaps affords its own best refutation (hear, hear). The extravagance of the article shows that after all it is a mere exhibition of weak rage on the part of some one belonging to the so-called Defence Association, because that Association failed in accomplishing any of its objects, and because it obtained from the Legislature a portion only of that which the Legislative Committee of this Council offered to them in September last. As this article will show they aimed at the utter

destruction of the Council. In this exhibition of rage the writer is so carried away as to say the Legislature had sounded the death note of the Council; he charges us with having instituted 184 Division Court suits, before the legislation of which they complain, namely, the legislation which was devised to compel dishonest men to pay their debts; and the only way in which we could compel them, because they disregarded the judgments got against them in the Court; and we thought too highly of the honour of our profession to bring them before the judges upon the judgment summons. And that very charge that he brings against us, if it were true, which it is not, would justify the Council in asking for that legislation which, not only Osgoode Hall and the College of Pharmacy and other public institutions have, but which all clubs have of compelling men who do not pay their dues to leave their club. This is all that we ask. It is that to which no honest man will object; and no honest man ought to object nor ought any man claim to be a member of a body whose annual dues he refuses to pay. He ought, if he has any self respect, and I contend these men had no self respect (hear, hear), when they instituted the slanders that they have for three or four years past been circulating through the country, slanders which never would have been uttered by these men had we not put upon the statute book a law which compelled them to pay their debts; and these men, in making these charges against the Council, forgot that during all the years they had been supporting the Council, they had been casting their votes for the members who represent the profession in this Council, they had been a party consenting to everything the Council did and never an objection; and yet how can these men claim to have done their duty by the profession if during all these years they allowed us to perpetrate all the rascalities with which they charge us. I cannot imagine what sort of a mind the man has who penned this article; it is not the writing of a man inspired by a good motive, not the writing of a man who loves his fellowmen or of a man who holds high the honour of his profession. Men ought to stand by their own order; this man does not; he vilifies it (whoever he is), and he does not hesitate to state as truths things which he knows to be untrue; for instance, he charges this Council