

in their make-up, that they could be pierced only in the Division Court, now so sensitive, cannot stand this provision!

Are we children? Are we hypercritical wise acres? Or are we men?

Gentlemen, we are not the only incorporated body, the members of which are required to pay promptly an annual fee. The druggists have a provision by which every man who keeps a drug store must pay \$4 per annum for his license. To pay this he is allowed till the first of May, otherwise he loses his license. Then, there is the legal profession. We have never found members of the legal profession backward in looking after their rights. We have never found them backward in standing up for liberty. The annual fees in their profession amount to about \$18, and they are allowed to the last day in Michaelmas term to make payment and obtain the annual certificate. If after that time the amount is not paid, the right to practise is lost and they are subject to fine. We hear no outcry about their being humiliated or their liberties curtailed. Now, gentlemen, surely members of the medical profession are not so much more sensitive than those I have mentioned, that they should object to being asked to contribute their professional fee after being given twelve months in which to pay it, and two months' notice being required before any action can be taken.

The annual certificate is objected to because they say we had a right under our diplomas to practise without a fee during good behaviour. Unfortunately, diplomas do not undertake to cover everything. Previous to 1865 as now, each of the universities granted diplomas. These diplomas did not entitle to practise medicine, but they were received by the Government as proof that the person had the required professional knowledge, and upon the production of other testimonials "required by law in that behalf," the Government granted a license. The licentiates of the Medical Boards obtained licenses to practise on proof of the same nature. Under the old diploma itself, there was no right granted to practise medicine at all. Some have said that the diploma of the College of Physicians and Surgeons was a diploma giving the right to practise for all time, and that it contains nothing about an annual fee. Look at the exact wording of that diploma. It simply sets

forth that a certain gentleman has completed the curriculum, that he has passed the requisite examination, and that he has become a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, and is *thereby* entitled to practise medicine, surgery and midwifery. This is simply an acknowledgment that he is a member of the College, and if a member he must be registered, and if registered he has a right to practise. But when registered, he is subject to the provisions of the Act respecting registration, and under that same Act he is required to pay an annual fee of not less than \$1 nor more than \$2; and that fee is due on the first day of January each year. The Council does not undertake by that diploma to grant any privilege whatever, either to practise or anything else, and it would be of no use if it did. There is no provision in the Statute to allow of it doing so, and its duty is not to make law but to carry out the provision of the Statute provided.

This section 41, "A" had in view the equalizing of the burdens of the profession; the avoidance of an accumulated amount of back fees, and the vexatious process of collecting through the Division Court; the saving of the expense necessarily incurred (a waste of funds) in collection; and the placing on the practitioner the onus of deciding whether or not he wished to practise, and if to practise then to make payment, and not on the Council to make collections. All of which it bids fair to accomplish, and all of which fair-thinking medical men will consider equitable and just.

Very serious objection has been taken to the Council for the uses to which this building is put. It has been said that the profession at large are being made to pay for a great mass of brick and mortar in Toronto, that the city medical men shall have a grand home at their expense. If we look carefully into the matter we find this is not true. The city practitioner does not use it unless he pays for it, and receives no advantage any more than the country practitioner. It is said the Council established a library for the exclusive benefit of the medical men of the city of Toronto. I need not tell you that the Council have not expended one solitary dollar on the library. While there is a library in the building, the owners of it pay a rental for the space they occupy, as any other person or persons would be required to do.