

appliance be admitted at the same rate as surgical instruments now were. Dr. N. A. Powell said that this rating would hardly be made unless trusses, which were now subject to a special rating, be omitted from the scope of the Resolution. The Resolution was adopted.

Dr. Mitchell, Enniskillen, seconded by Dr. McKinnon, Guelph, moved a resolution to the effect that the thanks of the visiting members were due, and were hereby tendered to the profession of the City of Toronto for their hospitality. Carried.

Dr. Reeve resumed the Chair, and regretted that owing to the absence of Dr. Hillary he could not introduce him to the Association, and declared the Association adjourned.

## COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 14th June, 1892, 2 p. m.

The chair was taken by Dr. J. A. Williams; the meeting called to order, and the roll of membership called by the Registrar, Dr. Pyne.

The president delivered his address as follows:

*Gentlemen of the Council.*—It is my pleasing duty to welcome you back to your labors for the ensuing year; and, with you, deeply regretting that one gentleman, a representative of the homœopathic branch of the profession, if I may so say, who was with us at our last meeting, will not be with us this year. His time of trouble and strife in the medical profession has been brought to a close. With his more intimate friends we join our sorrows that an illustrious career of usefulness should have so speedily ended. But while we must deplore the loss which we, the Council and the medical profession of Ontario have sustained, our members have not fallen off: we have now to welcome back to our Council, our old esteemed friend, Dr. Vernon, of Hamilton.

The year that is now drawing to its close has not been without considerable anxiety to the medical profession. The legislation which was secured in 1891, and which was believed to be in the interests of the public and the profession has been very largely misunderstood. Efforts have been made, not only to have that legislation repealed, but to have other changes made; some that would be of very great detriment to the usefulness of this Council, if not indeed entirely destroy it.

It is to be regretted that there should be any

members of the profession who would think for a moment that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, a representative body of the profession, should have any interest to serve other than that of the public and the profession; but so long as we have representative institutions as we have in this country we must expect to come under the same influence as other representative bodies. If, for instance, we select in a community twelve of the best men we can find, and elect them as Municipal Councillors,—before the first year is up we find them strongly abused; and if they unfortunately continue in power three or four years they need not be surprised if they learn they are murderers or worse. Members of this Council must not hope to escape a like fate.

We find too, I think, that one reason why the Council is misunderstood is because of a want of intercommunication between the Council 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 their representatives addressing 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 they cater to the entire public and can not be expected to give a great deal of space to questions interesting some two thousand or more medical men. We would be inclined to think that the medical press would be placed in a somewhat different position. We would think 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 apparently do not look at that question in the sense that we do, for we find that the merest epitome of the Council's proceedings is left without that light on the proceedings of the Council which I think the profession are anxious to have and which I think they ought to receive.

Because of this want of intercommunication between the profession and the Council a misconception exists with the public as well as with the members of the profession as to the utility of the Council and of this College. It is not uncommon to hear from the public that it is a huge monopoly, got up for the benefit of the profession, and to the detriment of the public; and from the profession we not frequently hear that free trade in medicine is a desideratum. I need not say to you that this is a great mistake, not only so far as the public is 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 that they have been called upon to contribute towards the funds of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

In order that we may understand to what extent the public and profession are interested in this matter it may be wise just hastily to review some