

would shut out some honest, industrious young men, and leave the profession open only to those born with "a spoon of silver." I need scarcely say to you, gentlemen, that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is not likely to take any such step.

Another amendment under the heading of "Appeals" is made. If a practitioner had his name erased for unprofessional conduct, under the '87 Act an appeal might be made to a High Court Judge. A change was made so that an appeal may be had to a Division of the High Court.

There are a couple of other clauses amending the '87 Act, with reference to the taking of evidence and to the assessment of costs, important in the conduct of these cases.

We now come to a more important particular: section 9, subsection 22. This was placed in the Act for the purpose of enabling the Registrar to keep a correct register of all medical practitioners in the Province. If you examine the present register, you will find on it about 2,600 names. After the most careful examination, we believe there are about 2,148 practitioners in the Province. You will see, therefore, there is a great defect in the register. The Registrar does not become aware of those who have left the country, or who have ceased to practise from one cause or another, and, unless fully conversant with the facts, has no right to erase names. This clause provided, that in the event of an official letter from the Registrar, sent to a practitioner, remaining unanswered for six months, we may have a right to assume that he is dead, has left the country, or gone out of practice, hence his name may be dropped from the register. A similar clause is found in the '65 and '68 Acts, and, I believe, in the British Act. It was not in the 1874 Act, but is re-introduced in the Act of 1891. It was put there, not as a means of punishing the members of the medical profession, but rather with a view for perfecting the register, so that we might know who had a right to practise, and who had not. It also had the object of establishing a means of closer communication between the profession and the Council.

We turn next to the section that has given rise to the greatest amount of controversy, section 41, "A."

This section has several striking features in itself. The first is, a medical man is required to take out an annual certificate, and he is required to pay his annual dues before the 31st December in each year. According to the Statute of 1874, the fee was due on the 1st of January. He is given twelve months in which to pay the sum of not less than \$1.00 nor more than \$2.00. But even then, should he not pay, he must receive two months' notice; and if at the end of that time he does not remit the amount, the assumption is, that he does not wish to practise, and his name is erased from the register. The matter is thus left optional with himself, either to practise and pay,