

session of the Council. As confirmatory of the charges I have ventured to make, and, as illustrative of the futility, under existing circumstances, of attempting to obtain from the Council even the simplest measure of justice on behalf of the profession, I propose discussing in my next communication the powers, composition and acts of the Executive Committee to which, practically, for fifty-one out of fifty-two weeks of the year, is intrusted the entire government of the profession. The Legislature has wisely given the medical electorate a representation equal to three-fifths of the whole Council. Both last year and this, efforts were made to secure for the profession a proportionate preponderance in this ruling Committee. They were defeated by the aid of the Solid Phalanx, and it may prove both instructive and useful to show on what flimsy pretexts and by what vote this righteous change was refused.

My friends, Dr. Williams and Dr. Bray, who both belong to the Solid Phalanx, resent its being called an Inner Circle. They prefer that it should be termed a "Caucus." Well, sir, I am not disposed to cavil about words. If "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," why should not this "machine" prove just as strongly odorous were we, for the nonce, to agree to call it a "Caucus." Howsoever we may designate it, its purpose, its methods and its effects remain the same. It was designed, and it is inexorably used to thwart the profession in its aspirations towards economy and self-government. It was designed, and it is inexorably used to stifle all fairness and independence in debate, and to freeze out or to snow under all individualism and fidelity on the part of the elected men in the Council. It is not a new creation, for Dr. Williams assures me that he found it in existence on his first election twelve or fifteen years ago. At that time there was no formal opposition in the Council and consequently its only possible object must have been to overawe any newly elected man, who might show some disposition to be independent, by keeping him out in the cold until he proved to be sufficiently compliant with the views of the ruling combination. Clearly, to call it a "caucus," from any supposed analogy between it and the political machine so entitled, is childish in the extreme. A "caucus" proper can exist only in connection with a body homogeneous as to its mode of election or appointment. The Council is a composite body claiming to exist as a compromise between its three rival or antagonistic interests. It embraces three distinct classes of members—elects, appointees and selects. For any two of these classes, with or without the aid of a few complaisant members of the other, to unite so as to place the interests represented by that other or