

The fourth would appear to be unnecessary if each Territorial Division had a properly defined Tariff of Fees, which may be legalized by the Act as at present existing.

The fifth clause has already provoked hostile criticism, although evidently based upon misapprehension by the critics. We cannot say that it entirely meets with our approbation. The Act limits the yearly assessment to "not less than one, nor more than two dollars." Custom seems to have established the yearly tax of one dollar. We learn that even this small sum in many cases is not paid, and that it is difficult to collect it by process of law. If this clause were limited to that portion relating to recovery of fees in the Toronto Division Court, the Council would get over the difficulty and receive funds enough for carrying on its work, and the practitioner would have no cause for complaint. We may point out, in this connection, the fact that in many cities and states of the neighboring republic a yearly assessment of ten dollars for revenue tax is made upon every medical practitioner.

The sixth clause is of the utmost importance, and, if passed, will enable the Council to proceed against offenders who are now beyond its power to punish. And, lastly, instances could be multiplied of the hardship experienced by established practitioners, who having successfully resisted an onslaught upon their personal character or professional skill, are mulcted in heavy costs because of the poverty of the plaintiffs. The law now marks the surgeon as fair game for every crippled pauper who, by bringing a suit against the man who may perhaps have saved his life, has everything to gain, and nothing to lose.

The objection to this clause has been offered that it comes under the heading of class legislation. Doubtless it does; but is any class in the community so exposed to malicious prosecutions (which is the fact in ninety-nine of every hundred of such suits) as members of the medical profession?

Our sympathy is with the Council in this matter, and we trust the Government may grant the required amendments, with some very slight alterations, which in themselves are comparatively trivial.

MEDICAL COLLEGE LITERARY SOCIETIES.

The first open meeting for the session of the Trinity Medical College took place on the 25th ult. Dr. Sheard, the popular president, gave the inaugural address. A number of songs and recitations were given by the students, much to the delight of the large audience present.

The Literary Society of the Toronto School of Medicine commenced the session under the most favourable auspices. Dr. W. H. B. Aikins, the president-elect, delivered his inaugural address, which was followed by readings and music. The Society received fifty dollars from Mr. George Sears, of New York, to be devoted to the literary fund. Dr. Winstanley, of Toronto, also gave some valuable books and journals.

THE ANÆSTHETIC PROPERTIES OF COCAINE.

Observations have recently been made of the anæsthetic effects of cocaine, which promise to be of great importance to the profession. Dr. Koller, of Germany, first wrote of its effect in diminishing the sensibility of the conjunctiva, and it has since been successfully used by several American ophthalmic surgeons. It was previously known that cocaine had the power of lowering, even destroying, the sensibility of the sensory nerves, but the honor of introducing it as a practical anæsthetic agent belongs to Dr. Koller.

Cocaine is also a mydriatic. "The dilatation of the pupil begins in from ten to twenty minutes after this solution is instilled into the eye, and reaches its maximum in from thirty to forty minutes, remains stationary for half a hour and then slowly declines, disappearing wholly within twenty-four hours."

It does not irritate the eye, and no pain or discomfort is caused by it. Three, four, or five drops of a four per cent. solution should be dropped into the eye every four minutes for twenty minutes previous to the time of proposed operation.

Cocaine has also been used successfully as a local anæsthetic for operations on the ear and larynx. It is probable that small growths can