

Dr. Hill begs to draw the attention of the members of the liberal professions, and others, to a copy of the "recorded opinion" of the Medical men of Bytown in the investigation of certain charges against a confrere, as follows:—

Dr. Hill accuses Dr. Cortland of two of the grossest breaches of professional conduct:

1st. In refusing to attend a patient for him in his absence *except under the express understanding that Dr. Hill should be discontinued as the regular Medical attendant*—contrary to all rules of Medical Etiquette; and of the mutual interchange of courtesies understood to exist between them.

2nd. In having made use of "unprofessional language" at the bedside of such patient, in reference to the previous treatment adopted by Dr. Hill.

We, the undersigned, are of opinion that Dr. Hill has succeeded in proving the above charges, from the nature of the evidence adduced in his support thereof.

ALFRED MORSON.  
JAS. STEWART.  
EWD. BARRY.

I am of opinion that Dr. Hill has proved the first charge; but with regard to the second charge, "of making use of unprofessional language at the bedside," as this depends so much on the *manner* in which the expression was uttered, I cannot consider it proved.

Bytown, April 27th, 1846.

W. C. SEAMAN, M.D.

If Dr. Hill be asked, Why make professional squabbles the matter of public notoriety? his answer is briefly this—"to expose such conduct as that above described to the severe scrutiny of public opinion, will occasionally restrain persons from the commission of "dirty actions" which are not exactly amenable to any other code."

The use of unprofessional and uncalled-for observations at the bedside of the patient is calculated to infuse mistrust into the mind of the patient as well as the friends; and is always, amongst members of the Medical profession, declared to be at variance with every established rule of professional etiquette and that gentlemanly courtesy that should characterize the behaviour of professional men towards each other. The use of an unprofessional observation or "inuendo" *might* be of incalculable and lasting injury to a Medical practitioner; but, thanks to a well-earned reputation in this Town, and in the surrounding Country to the extent of at least one hundred miles, Dr. Hill feels himself perfectly secure against the slanderous and foul-mouthed insinuations of any individual who may thus ungenerously assail him. Nevertheless, he complains of such conduct "on principle."

Dr. Hill has been advised to commence an action for "defamation" against the individual in question; but, to recover damages it is necessary to prove that damage or loss has been sustained. He certainly could not prove this, neither does he mean to assert that he has sustained any, as "the patient" happened to be one of a family he attends yearly by contract, and by whom he had been paid in advance; moreover, he has every reason to believe the contract will be renewed at the commencement of another year.

Dr. Hill now takes leave of this unpleasant subject, about which he will trouble the public no further. The individual alluded to informed Dr. H. in writing "he declined taking part" in the above named investigation, to which he had invited him; which denial may be fairly looked upon as a tacit acknowledgment of his inability to rebut the charge, or to bring forward any one thing in the previous conduct of Dr. Hill which should warrant this abrupt cessation of the courtesies that were understood to exist between them.

Bytown, April 28th, 1846.



