

Fee and wage earners of all sorts have combined for mutual protection and assistance. Societies, guilds, or unions are to be found now in all professions and trades, among the best and most effective of which are those of the medical, dental, chemical, and Nursing professions. Each of these bodies, after long struggles against dangers and difficulties in many respects similar to those we have to face, found their only path to a recognised status and a legitimate field of usefulness lay in *combination*, thus verifying the old adage 'Union is strength.'

"Believing, then, that the formation of such a society would tend to promote our efficiency, to give us a respectable and honourable status to make us worthy of the confidence of the medical profession, and also to protect the public, we have taken the steps of which the Society of Operators in Massage and Medical Electricity is the result.

"I now come to the second portion of my subject in 'Why have we set up tests for membership?' Our answers are—

"(1) Because there is no existing recognised standard of efficiency.

"(2) Because the Certificates given by the various teaching bodies and individuals

represent an almost endless variety of degrees of proficiency.

"(3) Because owing to this absence of any standard, medical men have great difficulty in selecting operators for their cases.

"(4) Because all sorts of ignorant people set up as teachers, whose so-called Certificates deceive the public, and add incompetent operators to an already crowded market.

"If this Society is to be of any real use in the manner indicated, all its members must possess some definite qualification, and have passed some standard which, as far as general qualifications go, shall put us all on an equal footing.

"The existing state of affairs is simply absurd. Some of the teachers require years of close study before a Certificate is granted, some require months, and some consider a week or two sufficient. Some require a thorough and full knowledge of anatomy and physiology, some consider an elementary acquaintance with these subjects enough, while others, alas! ignore them altogether. Again, some insist upon their students going through a systematic course of Electricity, while others teach 'the battery' (whatever that may mean) in a few lessons.

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