

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE.

SIR,—In my former letter, I limited my remarks to the question of the admission to study. I will now touch upon the other point, not less interesting, but more professional—the regulations as to the admission to practice.

I propose, in the first place, to consider the reasons which must have weighed with the Legislature in granting charters of incorporation to persons engaged in professional pursuits.

All civilized nations have, I believe, felt it to be wise to grant special powers to professional bodies, but such powers are granted, not for the private benefit of the grantees, but because the interests of the public are thereby served.

No one will, I feel sure, gainsay for one moment that great advantages accrue to the public through the incorporation of the professional bodies, to whom are committed, more or less, the lives, the health, the property, and the liberty of the people.

The responsibility thrown on professional men demands care on their part that fitness, and professional character, and honor are maintained.

The principle is not new. Trades, as well as professions, were governed by “guilds” in the middle ages; and even to the present day, in some countries, no man can exercise a trade without serving a long apprenticeship with a master mechanic.

That large power should therefore be given to the professions in this respect, is in my opinion a correct principle, but such powers must be used in the public interest, and they must not run counter to, but be in accordance with other established rights and privileges also granted for the public good.

The question for consideration then may be classed under three heads, viz:—

1. Does the Bar Act give such powers as conflict with the public interest?
2. Does the powers given in the Bar Act run counter to, or encroach on other established rights and privileges?