

vending to the public a secret remedy is not sufficient cause for removing a physician's name from the register, it would be difficult to find what constitutes a cause. The profession are most urgently warned to give no countenance to such an institution, until it makes known fully its entire method of treatment. Until then it must be ignored and condemned by all, as belonging to the same secret order of remedies as the Prince Mattei cure for cancer.

British Columbia.

Under control of the Medical Council of the Province of British Columbia.

• DR. MCGUIGAN, Associate Editor for British Columbia.

A WORD OF APOLOGY.

We have to apologize to our readers for the non-appearance in last month's issue of this journal of the editorial matter. The editor was in the midst of a municipal election, and had not time to prepare the material for that issue. We asked several of our medical friends to help us, but though they promised to write something, it appears they did not. We sincerely hope and trust that the medical men of this province do not mean to let one man conduct this department. There must be lots of matter worthy of publication, which, if sent to the editor, would make interesting reading for the subscribers of this journal. Any communications sent to Box 311, Vancouver, up to the first of every month will be carefully read, and if found interesting will be sent for publication.

OVERCROWDING THE PROFESSION.

There seems to be an idea prevalent among the medical men of the East that British Columbia is the Eldorado to which all practitioners should fly when elbow room at home is getting restricted, and fees and patients are conspicuous by their rarity. As this province is away from the crowded centres, and the cost of coming here high, a word or two to our brethren on the other side of the continent might be seasonable, and might be the means of preventing disappointment and chagrin to many of them in the future. We therefore hasten to say to

any medical men who may be thinking of coming this way, that at the present time the profession here is full, and if a physician wants to make money he had better go elsewhere. The population of this province is confined almost entirely to the sea-coast, and the four cities of Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo, and the capital, Victoria, contain the bulk of the inhabitants. Up the Fraser on each side there are some flourishing settlements which are gradually enlarging, and in the vast interior, known as the mining regions, little towns are springing up here and there. Now Victoria has a population, say, of twenty thousand, of which a large number are Chinese, who have doctors of their own, and rarely employ white physicians. To look after the health of the remainder there are twenty-nine medical men, or one to every eight hundred of the white population. Vancouver has a population of fifteen thousand, and has twenty doctors, besides herb and root men, an occasional visit from travelling quacks, and druggists who prescribe over the counter. Westminster has eight doctors and a population of six thousand, and Nanaimo seven, with probably five thousand inhabitants, a large number of whom are coal miners and employ a physician by the year, each man contributing so much per month.

In the settlements on the Fraser a medical man is to be found in all of them, and the same is to be said of the interior, so that for all the wants of the present population, particularly on the coast, the supply of physicians is greater than the demand. Then again, this is a healthy country, a land of sea breezes and ozone, rendering the services of the physician unnecessary for the great bulk of the people. In one branch of our profession, however, viz., midwifery, this cannot be said. The prolificacy of the Pacific Coast has passed into a proverb, and if any of our medical friends in the East have any patients requiring a change of climate with the view of increasing the size of the family, by all means send them out here. But even with this advantage our medical men here have lots of spare time on their hands, for as I said, the climate is healthy, and when people are well they laugh at the doctor. The overcrowding of the profession, it goes without saying, must be detrimental to the *morale* of its members.

In Ontario the battle is raging fiercely between