

Correspondence.

The Editors are not responsible for any views expressed by correspondents.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—One or two correspondents have drawn attention in recent issues of your journal to the encroachments of so-called refractionists, doctors of refraction, opticians and others upon the work which should be done by qualified oculists.

These gentry, who are part and parcel of every jeweller's shop, advertise to examine eyes and fit glasses "free of charge," the patient only paying for the spectacles "if required," this is clearly a breach of the Medical Act, as much so as counter prescribing by chemists, but it seems impossible to get the Council roused into activity. In speaking to an agent of the "prosecuting department," I was told that owing to the animosity against the Medical Council among some of the long-whiskered hayseeds of the Local Legislature, it would be imprudent to make any move, as instead of giving the profession any further power an endeavor would be made to curtail the powers of that body. Now, Mr. Editor, if the statutes of the Council are so arbitrary that any fear of increasing them exists, the sooner they are wiped off the books the better. On the other hand, if they are made for the purpose of protecting medical men they should be fearlessly exercised.

The medical men are not a lot of slaves that they should crouch at the beck and call of ignorant members of the Local House, whose sole aim seems to be the licensing of any old woman or quack who has a "sure thing" in the cancer cure line.

Owing to the overcrowding of the profession at the present time, the difficulty of making even a living for a great many men necessitates every precaution being taken to prevent the small incomes being farther decreased by the inroads of unlicensed, ignorant charlatans, who frequently make much better incomes than physicians. Thanks in many cases to the kind consideration extended towards them by "the clergy," who, strange to say, seem to be "easy marks," judging from the testimonials we see every day in the public press extolling this or that "catarrh remedy," signed by some prominent divine who blazons forth his mental and physical infirmities that all that run may read.

The medical profession is already in a deplorable condition from the crowding resulting from bucolic ambition, furthered by the clap