

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF
MEDICAL SCIENCE, NEWS, AND POLITICS.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

GENTLEMEN to whom specimen copies are sent will confer a favour by intimating their intention to subscribe, and any necessary change of address. This journal is published on the system of cash payments in advance. A remittance of ONE DOLLAR secures the MEDICAL TIMES for Six Months; two dollars one year, etc. The friends of the journal are requested to make efforts amongst neighbouring practitioners to obtain subscribers.

JAMES NEISH, M.D., Kingston.

INTRODUCTORY.

In issuing a new medical journal in Ontario it will be fitting to offer a few words of introduction in this our first number. Ontario, a province of the Dominion of Canada, whose population is rapidly increasing, has already within its borders a body of medical practitioners numbering nearly two thousand. The sister provinces are relatively to their area and population almost as well supplied with medical men. These members of the medical profession, it is due to them to say, are not behind the practitioners of other countries in point of aptitude, intelligence and attainments; and it has long been a matter of surprise that this intelligent body should be left without other media of literary intercourse than the monthly medical periodicals. The necessity for a weekly journal has been long felt, and it is to supply this want that THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES has been projected and commenced. This paper seeks to establish itself in the confidence of its subscribers as a strictly independent medical journal.

It will be its object to advance the interests of the medical profession in Canada by contributing to the diffusion of information amongst its members. It will be part of the plan to give original papers on medical subjects; to give reports of whatever proceedings of professional interest are passing in Canada and beyond; to give medical news; and to enter into the domain of medical politics with a view to uphold all that is beneficial for the profession in this country. New books will be reviewed so as to give an idea of their contents and value. Considerable space is intended to be devoted to abstracts of lectures and papers and a digest of all the current facts, discoveries and practical information gathered from the various medical publications on this and the other side of the Atlantic. In this form we intend to present to the busy practitioner all the current information and all the new, useful, and practical facts of the science. As a weekly visitor, laden with such treasures, we trust the TIMES will be hailed with a kindly welcome.

Our journal will be at the service of the profession as a vehicle for correspondence. There are many points continually arising in practice, pathology and treatment about which medical men may do well to solicit an expression of opinion from their brethren; and in such cases they will have an opportunity of doing so in the columns of this journal. Medical ethics and medical politics are subjects also on which naturally there will be a desire on the part of correspondents to express their opinions. With respect to corre-

spondence, one rule will of necessity have to be observed. It must not be anonymous. The name of the writer must be affixed to his communication, not in all cases for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It will be desirable, however, that correspondents should append their proper signatures to their letters for publication, whenever these deal with subjects concerning which the editor can share no responsibility.

Eagerly desiring as we do to advance medical science in this country, we feel we have a right to call upon the members of the profession in Ontario and the other provinces of Canada to aid us in this good work. We desire their co-operation as subscribers and as contributors. We invite them to send in reports of interesting cases and notes in practice; reminding them that in return for these contributions to a common stock they are reaping in part the advantages continually derived from the great sources of valuable information supplied by our professional periodical literature. There is still a word to be said and this by way of petition; we beg the reader's indulgence over imperfections and shortcomings inseparable from a first number. We are conscious that in this issue there is a lack of freshness; but this, though unavoidable, will soon be remedied; and in succeeding numbers we hope to present the CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES in the character constantly to be aimed at as a varied, concise and useful repertory of medical reading.

Trinity College, Toronto; Dalhousie College, Halifax; Bishop's College, Montreal, have each applied within the year to have their courses of study recognised by the Royal College of Physicians, London, as qualifications for admission to examination for the diploma. The several colleges have been informed that no definite answer can be given while the scheme for the formation of a Conjoint Examining Board for England is under consideration. We call the foregoing from the President's address.

We are glad to note the appointment recently of Dr Octavia Yates as an Associate Coroner for the city of Kingston. We believe the causes which led to his appointment are such as have a general application, and which make it advisable to have medical men as coroners in all localities in which this is practicable. We just hint at these causes. A non-medical coroner, appointed long ago for political reasons, blundered recently in a very important case. The defects in his conduct of the inquest were so glaring as to lead the government to make inquiries; and the result has been the appointment of a medical gentleman who is competent and willing to act.

It is singular how governments consider themselves entitled to free services from medical men. The new English Registration bill, introduced by the government, compels medical practitioners to give certificates of the causes of death of their patients. The Ontario Registration act embodies a similar presumption that medical men are to be called upon to do gratuitously that which in the case of a magistrate, notary, attorney or in any

other profession, would be a matter for pay. The government of Ontario does nothing in the way of aiding medical education or benefiting the profession, to entitle it to claim such gratuitous service, and the British government does exceedingly little to the same end. It is simply an idea they have that medical men will do their behests out of good nature, or mere passiveness and non-resistance. But in England the medical men are demanding a small fee to be paid by the government for death certificates, and if the agitation succeeds it will help Canadian practitioners to stand out for a similar recognition of the value of their time and services.

A contemporary recently alluded to the increased openings for medical practitioners in Canada at the present time. The observations referred to Lower Canada, but in Ontario also the openings for medical practice are increasing. It is true that the principal cities are somewhat overcrowded, but the smaller towns and country villages are not so well supplied; and the new townships that are rapidly opening up into prosperous agricultural districts by means of railways afford an almost unoccupied field. It is oftentimes a matter of wonder what can become of all the graduates of the medical schools, and where can they go to; but in this as in other things a natural law seems to be at work. It is the law of distribution based on demand and supply.

Another thing to be noted in this connection, and one that is equally encouraging to students attaching themselves to the medical profession, is the improvement in the scale of remuneration for medical services which is obtaining in this part of the Dominion. The fees are going up. This is both natural and proper. For many years past medical fees in the generality of cases have been far too low; but our people were poor or of limited income; and the cheap scale of living in Canada enabled a medical man to put up with small fees. But now the country is prosperous and the cost of living has become dearer, it is therefore just that the scale of fees to medical men should be increased; and not only bear some correspondence with the increased cost of living and the increased rate of wages and salaries to working men and officials, but also approximate to what is paid in other countries. The movement is tending in this direction, and we are glad to note it. How to assist this movement is a matter which we shall take up on another occasion.

There is a good deal of outcry against the expensiveness and inutility of the British General Medical Council. A student correspondent of the *Lancet* is dissatisfied with the payment he has to make to the Council, inasmuch as he sees no result or advantage from it. He especially complains that no assistance is given towards the repression of coarse and misleading quackery. "All I know," he says, "of the Medical Council is that at certain periods there appear in the medical papers long reports of their quarrelsome and never-ending speechifying, and I am further mortified to know that I and others are taxed for no apparent object except to secure its continuance."