

# THE CANADA LANCET.

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*Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.*

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TORONTO, JUNE 1, 1879.

## THE ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Medical Council which was held in Toronto on the 13th ult. and following days, was in some respects an improvement on those of former years. This year the members instead of hurrying through their work with almost indecent haste, and leaving a large amount of unfinished business to be dealt with by the ubiquitous executive committee, wisely remained in session part of Saturday and finished up their business before leaving. This we regard as a step in the right direction, and one which we have no doubt will be duly appreciated by the profession at large. The Council cannot afford to have its most important business transacted by the few gentlemen who constitute the executive committee, however experienced and respectable these gentlemen may be, without losing much in the estimation of the profession and the public.

The two most important topics of discussion were, the increase of territorial representatives on the council board, and the discontinuance of the system of annual examinations in favor of a *primary* and *final* examination as in former times. In regard to the former question we have already, in the last issue, expressed our opinion, and we have now only to congratulate Dr. Henwood, the mover of the resolution, upon the success which he has achieved. Though defeated by a small majority he has won a moral victory, and the question of increased territorial representation only remains to be carried in the Legislature. He was opposed, as we predicted, by the school-men and the Homoeopaths who stood shoulder to shoulder in the interest of the monopolists, and against the claims of the general profession. Of course we must in all

fairness except the representative of Trinity Medical School, Dr. Geikie, who fought valiantly in the interests of the territorial men. The yeas and nays on this vote will be found among the proceedings in another column. The increase of the territorial representation, as is the only means by which the ring which now rules the council can be broken up. The territorial men have no interests to subserve but the general good of the profession, and will not be easily led into any intrigues for the carrying out of the wishes of any particular individual or class.

The return to the primary and final instead of the annual examinations was, especially under the present circumstances, most judicious. The complicated nature of the work, the large number of students to be examined, the low state of the finances, and the increasing dissatisfaction on all sides, rendered this step almost imperatively necessary. We believe it is the duty of all colleges to hold annual examinations for testing the progress of the students in training, from year to year, but to insist upon annual examinations before the licensing board was but to increase the expense of the examinations without in any way benefiting those who presented themselves. As no very high standard was exacted, and no competition encouraged, it was simply offering the students an easy way of squeezing through with a few subjects each year. The only strong argument in favor of the annual examinations was, that the dread of the examination at the end of each term kept the student at his work, and prevented him from idling his time. We believe, however, that no amount of terrorism of this kind will have any effect upon a student who is disposed to idle away his time, but on the other hand it fosters a system of cramming up a certain amount of work each year, sufficient to enable the candidate to squeeze through the examination hall.

In the matter of the appointment of the examining board, Dr. Allison, with characteristic faithfulness to principle, again brought forward his motion relative to the appointment of examiners from among the registered practitioners outside the council, which was defeated. The Dr. has, however, succeeded in forcing upon the council the principle involved, so as to secure the object he had in view, as the members of the board, with one solitary exception, have been appointed this year