

Ontario Medical Journal.

SENT FREE TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE PROFESSION IN ONTARIO
AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

R. B. ORR, - - - - - EDITOR.

All Communications should be addressed to the Editor, 147 Cowan Avenue, Toronto.

VOL. II.]

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1893.

[No. 2.

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial Medical Associations will oblige by forwarding reports of the proceedings of their Associations.

Editorials.

MEDICAL COUNCIL MATTERS.

In this issue of the JOURNAL we present to our readers in the correspondence column two letters on practically the same subject, that is, the Iniquities of the Present Council—the first from a well-remembered writer, and the second from a man new in our journal in that column. As a matter of politeness, we may deal with the visitor, if he may be so called, first.

Dr. Burrows bases his whole diatribe against the present regime on one factor, for which, to any extent, it is not at all accountable. The argument is that the present Council building is quite unnecessary in every way, and that the expense put on the profession by its maintenance should not have been incurred. This enormous expense is simply and solely the sum of two dollars annually, which, we hope, the members are all in a position to pay, and if they are not, we should advise them to try their hand at some other livelihood which would be more remunerative.

As for the expense to the students, it is practically the same now as it has always been since the inception of the Council. The benefits to the students and the profession generally from such a building are many, but we will only speak of the ones mentioned by the writer. In former times, even in the recollection of many of us not very

old, the examinations were held in various halls which were entirely unfitted for any such purposes. The seats and desks were ill-fitted for good work, and the position of all concerned was very conducive to that bane of both examiners and good students—copying, of which we know for a fact, very considerable took place.

As regards the proceedings which were a disgrace, and examinations which were a farce, we cannot give any explanation, as we know of none, unless Dr. Burrows would be a little more specific. In fact, his letter reminds us of that old story of Bret Harte's, that "It is good anywhere round these diggings."

As to increased expense in payment of examiners, we would like him to read the report on this subject before he displays his ignorance further, as then he will see that they are not paid per student anything like the amount they were. It is evidently forgotten that where formerly we had one student to examine, we have now, at least, five, and the expenses have not, by any means, increased in that ratio.

The doctor's suggestions with reference to supplying a room for congregating in by using a ward of the General Hospital, or a hotel, or the Y.M.C.A., are so out of the question that we could only wish he would try the experiment himself. Truly, we would like to see him tackle the governors of the Toronto General Hospital for any such purpose. He evidently does not know them.