

How the Drift into the Medical Profession is Promoted.

— MEDICAL COLLEGE.

Please enter on this form, name and address of gentlemen who to your knowledge have the study of medicine in view.

Mr.

Post Office.....Box.....

.....Street, No.....

(Space is left for four names.)

The above names and addresses were written by.....

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW:

SIR,—The enclosed blank form was mailed to me from Toronto. I have received two others from different parts of the Province. I am informed that one or more copies of this high-toned document were placed on the desk of each candidate writing at the recent medical examinations of the University whose name heads the paper, though I have, for what appear to me to be sufficient reasons, drawn my pen through it. Surely your esteemed correspondent, Dr. Williams, who cannot refrain from complimenting even one he regards as an enemy on his business ability, will break out into raptures of eloquence over this evidence of "business ability" on the part of his associates and friends! It was evidently designed to catch the students, at a soft moment, and, in a pliant mood. The last line contains an unmistakable intimation that, possibly, the values of the written papers, and, certainly the zeal and loyalty of the candidates would be measured by the importance, from a business point of view, of the information thus supplied.

Universities and medical schools have, I suppose, a strong pull on young men and women writing for their degrees, and can thus draw, in advance, on that artfully and craftily created figment of the imagination—"Loyalty to one's *Alma Mater*." But they have no similar "pull" or "thumb-screw" to apply to outsiders, such as ministers, high-school masters, municipal clerks, public-school teachers, post-masters or the officers of fraternal societies. If these, all or any of them, are favored with similar blank forms, doubtless explanatory circulars are sent therewith, and, as an inducement to do the work required, some such system of competitive prizes may have been devised