

*To the Editors of the MEDICAL CHRONICLE.*

GENTLEMEN,—I notice an anonymous communication in the *Chronicle* for February, in which a grave charge is preferred against the three Governors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons for Lower Canada, resident in the District of Bedford. As one of the Governors so attacked, I deem it my duty to notice it. It is asserted by your correspondent, that, in place of any effort to put down the operations of practitioners without license, "quacks" are found "running at loose-ends over the whole country, and the three Governors themselves quietly encouraging it in every instance." Now, this is simply a falsehood, and slander, so far as regards myself, (my colleagues, I doubt not, will answer satisfactorily for themselves,) one which should not be preferred in the columns of a medical journal—the *quasi* organ of the profession in Lower Canada—except upon the very best testimony. It is a charge which your correspondent should have made personally before the College itself, where, the accusation being open, the defence would have been not only in the light of day, but, I am sure, successful. Your correspondent goes farther, and avers that these Governors "have each an illegitimate practitioner in their employment, to whom they are giving their daily bread for their services as hired assistants in their practice, and not as students." Now, Messrs. Editors, previously to the incorporation of the College, the practitioners on the border were compelled, generally, to look to the United States for their assistants,—most of those thus employed being, I believe, "veritable M. D.'s," graduates of American colleges ere coming to Canada, and usually settling here with a view of taking out licenses as soon as their means and opportunity would serve. One of my fellow-Governors began practice in Canada in that manner, but subsequently graduated at McGill College, taking a high position in his class; and so obtained his license, and, not long after, his Governorship. No real evil has arisen from this state of things,—no more wrong to the public and profession resulting than from the manner in which almost every medical man employs the more advanced students indentured to him. Was your correspondent (so charmed with the dignity of his degree as to thrust it forward with a "veritable" attached to it) never employed in this way during the time he was a student and under graduate?

Such a complaint against the employment of these American M. D.'s can only tend to one end, that under-graduates of the University should be privileged to practice under their patrons' supervision; while men who are not in a position to enter at our Universities, but who are pre-