

THE CANADA LANCET.

**A Monthly Journal of Medical and Surgical Science
Criticism and News.**

Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Address, DR. J. L. DAVISON, 12 Charles St., Toronto.

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THE MEDICAL COUNCIL

The late meeting of the Ontario Medical Council was characterized by the accomplishment of much useful work. The members were unusually constant in their attendance, and the week's work passed off pleasantly to all concerned. They were all present to hear the address of the retiring president, Dr. J. H. Burns, of Toronto. We hope to publish it in full in a subsequent issue.

One, and indeed the only change made in the curriculum, is that there is in future to be but one paper in Chemistry, which may include both the practical and theoretical departments of this subject. There will be only one oral in the same subject, and it will be practical in its nature. Regarding matriculation, the Registrar of the Council was directed to endeavor to make such arrangements with the Educational Department, that hereafter, as any candidate for the second-class non-professional examination with Latin, who has the study of medicine in view, may not be compelled to take the third-class non-professional examination, previous to his taking the second. This is required under the present regulations, and it seems to us a very vexatious and useless rule, when applied to students who wish to matriculate in medicine, regardless of the teaching profession altogether. We understand that the Educational authorities have stated that this could readily be done. There is every reason to believe, therefore, that the regulations relating to second-

class teachers will be so altered as to admit of this relief to matriculants in medicine.

We are glad to learn that a summer session of ten weeks' duration has been made compulsory. It will, as we have previously pointed out, be valuable in keeping students engaged in useful, practical work, and will relieve, to a considerable extent, the tension of the final students' work during their winter sessions. We have no doubt that the time is not far distant when two summer sessions will be required, but the Council has certainly acted wisely in hastening slowly in this much needed reform. It is, we think, much preferable to lengthening the session to nine months, a scheme which seems utterly impracticable to the majority of lecturers in medical schools.

Another change is the addition of a course of not less than fifty lecture-demonstrations in medical and surgical anatomy, which is also compulsory. This subject has been, for some reason, the *bête noir* of the final students for a few years past. The present course must be taken in the final years, and will doubtless be of great aid in preparing students for the Council examinations in these most important subjects.

It has been decided that in future two examinations shall be held yearly, one in the spring and one in the fall. This, we think, is only right. The standard of fifty per cent. should be rigidly adhered to, for if a candidate be allowed to pass on forty-nine per cent., it will be a hardship to one who gets, say, forty-eight per cent., if he be not allowed a pass, and so on. Still, a year is too long to refer a plucked candidate who has fallen below the required standard by only a few marks, and we think that the holding of semi-annual examinations must prove satisfactory to all concerned. The Registrar, in writing to the rejected candidates, shall state only the subject in which they failed, but not the marks obtained. This will, no doubt, save a great deal of heart-burning, and also trouble to examiners and the Registrar.

The question of British and Colonial Registration was dealt with at some length, but it stands *in statu quo*. We have referred to this question so frequently in the past that no further notice is now necessary.

It will be gratifying to the profession to know that the new Medical Act is to be enforced. The Council has directed the Discipline Committee to