

# Ontario Medical Journal.

SENT TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE PROFESSION IN ONTARIO, BRITISH COLUMBIA,  
AND NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

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*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. Physicians who do not receive their Journal regularly, or who at any time change their address, will please notify the editor to that effect.*

## Editorial Department.

### THE ASSESSMENT.

THERE is an old proverb reading, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," which is nearly as hackneyed as the subject we are going to venture on. Which category we will be put in for touching one that has been so very well threshed out, principally by the Defence Association, represented by the present three members of the Council, we cannot say, but existing circumstances, in our opinion, warrant a mention.

There used to be an annual assessment, and it existed for many years, whether paid by any, or all, or none of the members of the profession. This assessment is still on the law books, being one of the enactments of the Ontario Medical Act, but since the change made by the Legislature this point has been null and void: remember, not repealed, but simply set aside for the time being, till the new Council, with its seventeen territorial

members, had occasion to deal with it. Virtually, therefore, whether the assessment, whatsoever it may be, is levied or not depends entirely now on the action of the Medical Council, representing the medical profession of Ontario.

As is well known, our views have always been in favor of a certain small sum being paid by each doctor yearly to aid in the carrying out of this government. This fee has been objected to, strongly, indeed, in some cases, and argued against with a good deal of speciousness. Yet with all this, we cannot think it was the size of the sum required that raised the opposition, and with the consent of the profession generally the principle can scarcely be involved in the objection.

Many reasons crop up for its continuance, and will continue to do so as long as the Medical Council requires money to carry on its work. Two