

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.

Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Remittances to be addressed to DR. C. SHEARD, 320 Jarvis St., Toronto.

AGENTS.—DAWSON BROS., Montreal; J. & A. McMILLAN, St. John, N.B.; GEO. STREET & Co., 30 Cornhill, London, Eng.; M. H. MAHLER 25 Rue Richer, Paris.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1892.

The LANCET has the Largest Circulation of any
Medical Journal in Canada.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN ONTARIO.

It has been Ontario's wise policy for many years to give public aid very liberally for purposes of general education, from the Public School up to the University—and even to Agricultural Colleges, and to the teaching of such branches of science as form part of a general education. But for forty years in Ontario the principle has been asserted and carried out, that it is no part of the duty of the State to use public funds of any kind, in educating students for special professions, such as medicine or law, any more than for any other calling by which people earn their living. For this reason, the trifling equal grants given to each of our medical colleges for some years, by the late Attorney-General, J. Sandfield Macdonald, were entirely withdrawn, and have never been restored. Long ago, the medical faculty of the University of Toronto, which was maintained at the public expense, and was the only medical faculty in the province so maintained, was discontinued solely on this ground, only two members of the old parliament of Canada voting for its retention. And since the recent restoration of a state-subsidized medical faculty to the same institution,—it has been proved to a demonstration, just as it was in former days, “that private enterprise without any public aid whatever, is abundantly able to supply as many thoroughly educated young doctors and lawyers as the province requires—besides furnishing in the case of the doctors, a very considerable

number, who from preference go abroad to exercise their calling.” It was also long ago proved, and it is proved no less decisively to-day, that the quality of the professional men educated by a medical faculty maintained in part at the public expense, is no better, nor do they take any higher standing than others, towards whose education not one fraction of public money has been contributed. To-day, and for years past, the standing of the candidates from our various medical colleges, at the examinations of the Examining Boards in Great Britain, and at the examinations of the Medical Council, which all who intend residing in Ontario have to take, proclaims this clearly, over the whole land. Can there be any more convincing evidence than this, of the extreme impolicy, as well as the gross injustice, of subsidizing one out of the six medical teaching faculties, which, including the colleges for women, exist in Ontario? Our province is inhabited by sensible people, and has a sensible, level-headed medical profession who can see and judge of such matters for themselves, and if the future is to be judged of by the past, the injustice of which we loudly complain, will be remedied before long.

In 1887, as soon as the medical faculty was restored, but not before, the new Biological buildings in the Park, were hurried on to completion. On these buildings with their equipment, many thousands of dollars of public money were spent. During their erection and since their completion, it was given out, that they were intended for the sole use of the Arts Department, which the public rightly regard as the essential part, the back bone of the university. If this department required accommodation for its science teaching, it is right that it should have all it needs, without stint, but every one knows that the provision made, far exceeds any possible needs of the not very many Arts students who take the science course, and, as a matter of fact, from the moment these buildings were opened till now, they have been, and they continue to be, used largely for medical teaching purposes—indeed they were so advertised in the official calendar—and as such they are on every occasion being exhibited to medical students, to visitors, and to the public.

On the 1st of October, 1890, at a meeting in connection with the opening of the University of Toronto Medical College for session 1890-91,