

out by Ferrier as the probable one, would also fulfil this condition. The localization of the sexual centre, however, is a subject which requires further proof from experimental and pathological investigation.

That masturbation is a most debasing, debilitating and depressing vice, which has a deleterious influence upon the physical, mental and moral nature, is beyond doubt. It is equally true that its baneful effects are, *cæteris paribus*, in direct ratio to the early age at which it is practised, the extent to which it is carried on, and the nervous instability of its unfortunate victim.

Masturbation occurs in both sexes, and under similar conditions is equally harmful to the mental vigor of either. It is practised by the youth not yet in his teens, indulged in by the adolescent, and not abandoned by the octogenarian.

Masturbation, with an adequate predisposition, is an exciting cause of insanity; it is, perhaps, more frequently a symptom of that disease, but when present it hampers treatment, retards recovery, and in many instances precludes the possibility of a cure.

Correspondence

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—In your article, in the July number, on "American Graduates in Canada," you state very fairly why reciprocity in medical degrees is not advisable, albeit the 'Council,' not the schools, is responsible. Still the influence of the schools in the Council shows itself clearly in one "vexatious requirement." A student from a confessedly better school in the United States, no matter how well up, is not permitted to present himself for examination until he has spent a term at a Canadian school, and paid about \$120 in fees.

As to British licentiates, reasons why they should be re-examined are evident. That many of our best men find a difficulty in passing some examinations in Britain is undeniable; yet it is well known that many of our worst go abroad to avoid the Council's examination, and I have yet to learn of one who failed to obtain a license in less than a year if he applied to the right place.

It is generally admitted that the Council's matriculation is too easy. It is known that two

and one-half years and a bogus certificate of having been an apprentice for a year fulfils the requirements of time, that men with the rudiments of an English education, during this time, get up both matriculation and professional work, that the standard of examination is altogether too low. If British licentiates may practise in Ontario, the Council is powerless to reform these abuses, so long as some British institutions accept from our schools certificates of matriculation, and indeed several primary and final subjects as well. If the Council says to students, "you must matriculate, spend four years in professional studies and know something about your work," they may defy it, as they have done time and again, go to Britain and with only a nominal matriculation, in less than three years from the commencement of their medical studies practise in Ontario with a foreign licence. Surely no school in the United States passes students more easily or more quickly than this! Are not British examiners rather lenient with colonists?

C.

July 2nd, 1887.

MEDICAL SCHOOL CHANGE—OUR MEDICAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—You, and your many readers have, long ere this, read of the change which one of our medical schools has seen fit to make. After a career, somewhat long for a country so young as Canada, the "Toronto School of Medicine" has ceased to exist as such, and, with the School of Practical Science, has become the "Medical Department of the University of Toronto." Men, nay, even boys, have the right to make somersaults when they see fit, and why should the same privilege be denied to medical schools?

The change referred to has been paraded in the daily papers, as though a "new" body had been formed. The name is new, it is true, and the relations are changed somewhat, but after all, with hardly an exception, the long published list of teachers, of one kind and another (there are only twenty-nine, as yet!!!), consists of the Faculty of the late "Toronto School" and that of the "School of Practical Science."

The friends of this "new departure," especially those who have made it, are at perfect liberty to