

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of the Western Canada Medical Journal

Sir,—I have followed with much interest the propaganda in your editorial and correspondence columns re forming a Western Canada Medical Association and so-called Reciprocity, and would like to add a word.

We have special western needs that can be best served, or served only, by a Western Association, and the early promotion of this should have the hearty and active support of every medical man in the West and the goodwill of all in the Dominion. The earlier we start right, the better, and there are certain things medical to be put in order before we will be going right yet in the West. The power of an organization is many times that of its component individuals, and a W.C.M.A. can do some things which perhaps no other agency can. Let me indicate a few:—

1. We should have one registration examination for the two, three or four Western Provinces that have in them enough big-minded men to do something for the future welfare of the profession here in the West. Such an examination would certainly have a higher standard than any one of those provincial licensing bodies. Is there anything to prevent our medical councils joining hands at once and conducting their next examination under a joint board of examiners, at the usual centres? Anyone passing the examination could take out a license for any of the participating provinces. (As a suggested detail: The exam. fee might be \$50 and the license fee \$50, or some other figures, but there should be two fees). This is not reciprocity—it is UNION and strength.

2. As it is an anomaly to have the qualification of our medical men limited by artificial (provincial boundary) lines, which have nothing to do with the science and art of the treatment and prevention of disease, let us have Reciprocity for existing registrants, and so get a united profession for the future. Reciprocity seems to me the lesser evil. It will certainly not increase the actual number of incompetents in any part or the whole of Western Canada at present. There would be little shifting about. Reciprocity would strengthen union, but is a distinct and separate issue and the two must not be confused. As another suggested detail: Let the "Reciprocity" license fee be double that for the license under union examination or, as before, have a reciprocity registration fee and a license fee.

3. The Medical Act, Public Health Act and regulations of the Provincial Board are the statutory provisions governing medical work and they should be uniform for all these provinces whether we have union and reciprocity or neither of these. A W.C.M.A. could successfully urge upon the appropriate legislative bodies the wisdom of this arrangement and in the revision to get uniformly many improvements would very likely be secured, too.

Now, some of these suggestions are not new, but have already been advanced and ably advocated in your columns and elsewhere by Drs. Kennedy, Patterson, Speechly, Brett and others. I have re-