

Ontario Medical Journal.

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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.

Editorials.

THE PROFESSIONAL TAX.

As an editorial acrobat who "attitudinizes on the trapeze," we must give thanks to Dr. Sangster for his approbation of our powers, but we feel sure that in the judgment of our readers we are a long way behind himself on the bar. As an editorial writer, who tries his best to do justice to all communications, we certainly claim the palm for courtesy from the Doctor. At a civil request from us, accompanied by reasons showing the policy for shortening his, he holds over our heads that terrible sword of Damocles—the public press. No doubt we did ask and did wish for his communications to be printed in the medical press, and we still wish it, but we did not count on having three pages occupied. We were taken up in decidedly the wrong spirit, as we had no intention of dictating as to their length, simply expressing a desire for shorter ones.

If we were the acrobat we are made out to be in this line, nothing would please us better than to have such paragraphs as the first two, but as it is the same fault that we have complained of before, it is not necessary to notice it. We would kindly ask to have noted that more than a column is taken up with matter entirely extraneous

to the Council and the Council's actions. As a question of justice in connection with any tax, the three conditions laid down are very nicely given. The great trouble about them is not in the conditions themselves, but in the inferences deduced from them.

We certainly differ from him in the fact that the tax does not touch all benefited alike. In a former note on the subject, we showed conclusively that the great benefit of the Council was for the profession and the public. The latter being only directly interested, are the ones, of course, to suffer the tax. To assess the public and the schools would be quite as fair a proceeding as for the Toronto city council to levy an impost on Port Perry inhabitants for their own maintenance. As an expedient in its initiation, there is not the slightest doubt that it was necessary for the carrying on of the Council, which must be kept up, and the increase of expenditure by the increase of its work, required the levy to still go on.

The third condition is embodied in the first, as justice admits the necessity. That there was and still is this need, even our correspondent himself cannot deny if he cares to read the treasurer's statement. The great increase, legal and required, in the expenses to carry out the proper work of the Council, is never taken into consideration by any of the Medical Defence Association. One item