

## Correspondence.

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### INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVES.

*To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.*

DEAR SIR.—I am not a member of the Ontario Medical Defence Association, nor of the Medical Council, and therefore I can be permitted through your columns to express the hope, that before the coming meeting of the Legislature, something may be done to remove the bitterness which exists between a part of the profession and the Council.

First, as to the increase in the number of territorial representatives to the Council; there is no doubt that the time has arrived for this much needed change. Let us then come to some decision in the matter. I am in a position to know that a well-known and popular member of the Legislature has before him a plan for the rearrangement of the districts of the Province, giving seventeen territorial representatives instead of twelve as at present. The plan, which has been carefully prepared, is as follows, each county mentioned being as at present constituted for municipal and judicial purposes:

District No. 1.—The counties of Lambton, Essex and Kent.

District No. 2.—The counties of Middlesex and Elgin.

District No. 3.—The counties of Norfolk, Oxford and Perth.

District No. 4.—The counties of Huron and Bruce.

District No. 5.—The counties of Waterloo, Wellington and Dufferin.

District No. 6.—The counties of Brant, Haldimand and Welland.

District No. 7.—The counties of Lincoln and Wentworth.

District No. 8.—The counties of Halton, Peel and York.

District No. 9.—The counties of Grey and Simcoe.

District No. 10.—The city of Toronto.

District No. 11.—The county of Ontario and

the districts of Muskoka, Algoma and Parry Sound.

District No. 12.—The counties of Durham, Northumberland, Victoria and Peterborough.

District No. 13.—The counties of Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox and Addington.

District No. 14.—The counties of Frontenac and Leeds.

District No. 15.—The counties of Grenville, Dundas, Stormont and Glengarry.

District No. 16.—The counties of Prescott, Russell and Carleton.

District No. 17.—The counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and the district of Nipissing.

The above is, I believe, as fair and as just a redistribution of the districts as can be made, *the object being to give to each district, as nearly as possible, an equal number of registered, medical practitioners.* Taking the last medical register as a guide, I fail to see how any fairer division could be made. In the case of Toronto, there is no doubt a larger number of medical men than is to be found in any other district. I greatly mistake the spirit of the Toronto men, however, if they object when they remember that Toronto is the seat of two universities which are each entitled to a representative at the Council. Those who have suggested the above redistribution, have had no other desire than to render justice to every section of the Province, but if in spite of the care that has been exercised a fairer scheme can be suggested, let us hear what it is. The question is open for full discussion. Parliament will meet in a few weeks, and there is no doubt that the Ontario Medical Act will be amended in at least this one particular, namely, an addition of five territorial representatives. In the interest of the profession, there should be as little friction as possible, and knowing, as I do, the feeling of many of our legislators, I can assert that the wishes of all are to remedy as far as possible the grievances complained of. The Medical Council has certainly made some great blunders during the past few years, for which several of that body are, I know, heartily sorry. Perhaps, however, many of those who are now so loud in their complaints would have made the same errors or others equally distasteful. One thing is certain, and that is, that the outcome will be to make our Medical Council more subservient to the interests