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TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*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 sending their addresses to the corresponding editor.*

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UNIVERSITY REFORM.

The spirit of *unrest* was never more apparent on the surface of human society than at the present time. There is scarcely an institution, either civil or religious, which is not being disturbed by an agitation for reform or change. In many instances, as in the case of the merchants' shipping, the agitation came none too soon, and it is likely a Plimsoll could find many objects in this country to call forth the energies of his warm-hearted philanthropy; but the desire for change or reform is not limited to the institutions of commerce, it extends to the various departments of the Christian Church, and even to our oldest and most cherished colleges and universities. From nearly all parts of the British Empire, we hear calls for University reform, even in regard to institutions supposed to have been founded on the most firm and reliable basis. We are not believers in the absolute perfection of human judgment, and therefore do not wonder, that as time rolls on it should be found necessary to make certain changes in our schools, colleges and universities, by which they will be better adapted to the requirements of modern society. Our universities, the admiration and ambition of so many, are very apt, as they grow old, to become so encumbered by traditions and customs of the past, as to lessen the full measure of their usefulness in advancing years, and to call for the active intervention of the pruning knife to adapt them to the wants of the on-coming ages. It is no wonder, therefore, if the Toronto University, and University College, hitherto the pride and glory of Canadians, should come in for a share

of the attentions of the reforming spirit of the time. There are some who feel inclined to blame the University because its degrees and honors have not been more largely taken by the people; but we think it has acted wisely in looking more to the attainments, than to the number of its graduates. The University and College have, in our mind, always occupied rather an anomalous position, and should not be held altogether responsible for results arising from the peculiarities of their position. When the Institution was emasculated in 1852, by the removal of the faculties of law and medicine, it was rendered incapable of competing, on equal terms, in regard to numbers, with other Universities, retaining all their faculties.

The University of Toronto is now a graduating body only, and has to depend for its candidates chiefly upon University College, the teaching department; but as the College only consists of the faculty of Arts, it is manifestly impossible that University College can number as many students per annum as other teaching colleges with all the faculties, of Arts, Law, Medicine, and Divinity, in full operation, and the graduating class of the University of Toronto must fluctuate *pari passu* with the absence of its faculties.

At the same time, a system of prizes and scholarships was instituted, with the view of assisting meritorious talent; but oddly enough, these rewards were all equally available to the students of competing colleges, still exercising their graduating functions and examining their own students; while the students of University College were always liable to be examined by strangers, an arrangement which, no doubt, did tend to make the Degrees of the Provincial University highly respected wheresoever the English language is spoken; but which, undoubtedly, had the effect of keeping down the numbers attending the College, or graduating at the University, to a point not commensurate with the expectations of the public. It was thought, that by the system of affiliated schools, the absence of the usual Faculties in the College would be compensated for; but it has been found the reverse; for while some did send their students to the College for certain lectures, and to the University for their degrees, yet, in many