

THE CANADA LANCET.

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Criticism and News.**

Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet, Toronto."

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MEDICAL SCHOOL AMALGAMATION.

An effort has recently been made, by a few individuals connected with one of the medical schools in this city and certain members of the Senate of Toronto University, to organize a medical school in more immediate relation to the Toronto University, by the amalgamation of the two affiliated schools now in existence in this city. A report emanating from the Senate of the Toronto University at its last meeting, recommended the advisability of establishing a school in connection with the University, and a committee was appointed to confer with the authorities of the two medical schools with the view of giving effect to the recommendation.

The question of the amalgamation of the two medical schools in this city is not a new one. It has been discussed again and again for several years past, but has not yet found favor among those immediately interested, for various reasons. Each school has been content to work along in its own way, feeling that nothing was to be gained, under existing circumstances, by amalgamation. Being supported entirely by the fees from students, the one having the greater number had certainly nothing to gain financially by joining the other. The greater number of professors in one school as compared with the other; the rivalry as to the dealership of the united schools; the want of accommodation in the present lecture rooms for the united classes, and last but not least, the great

certainty of the immediate establishment of another school—had a deterring influence in the consideration of the question of amalgamation. There is no power to stop the multiplication of schools. The days of monopoly are forever past and gone. Even the proposed scheme, no matter upon what basis it is placed, will not, and cannot prevent the establishment of other schools.

There is much to be said in favor of the present system of competitive schools: such as the stimulus of healthy rivalry, the value of keen competition, the desire to be first in point of efficiency and thorough training, the praiseworthy effort to turn out the best men, etc., and the success of the schools in the past under this system is a sufficient answer to those who are desirous of a change. It must be remembered, also, that in medicine at least, the multiplication of schools does not and cannot lead to the lowering of the standard of medical education, because the Ontario Medical Council lays down the standard and the schools must keep up to it, or fall off altogether. Besides, all candidates in medicine who desire to practise in Ontario, must pass the examining board of the Ontario Medical Council, no matter what their attainments may be, so that the public is fully protected, and if on examination the standard is found to be too low, it can easily be raised from time to time, in accordance with the advancing progress of medicine.

If, however, it is considered desirable, in the interests of the profession and the public, to have one medical school in the city of Toronto, then let us have one on a grand and comprehensive scale, one that will give great promise for the future, and one that will forever place the professors in a position of independence—both as to the number of students in the classes, and the necessity of engaging so largely in private practice. We are in favor of amalgamation, if thereby we can obtain such results. But it must not be forgotten that the establishment of such a school requires money—a considerable sum—to carry it to a successful issue, and unless this is secured, it is needless to expect any great change in the present system of medical education. The present schools are not willing to unite and carry on a large establishment without any assistance other than the fees to be derived from the students. They could not do so without loss to their present incomes, and would