

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications and reports solicited. Correspondents must accompany letters, if intended to be printed anonymously, with their proper signature, as a guarantee of good faith.

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.

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POSTAGE ON THE MEDICAL TIMES.—The rate of postage on the Medical Times is Five Cents per quarter.

The Medical Register of Ontario for 1873 is in press, and will shortly be issued.

We direct the reader's attention to an abstract we have prepared of Dr. Loomis's paper on Uræmia, which appears *in extenso* in the New York Medical Record of August 1. This paper supplies an important deficiency in accessible medical literature, and is worthy attentive study by young physicians. We should be glad to see Dr. Loomis publish his valuable article in the shape of a small book or pamphlet.

Doubtless there will be differences of opinion regarding certain provisions of the new Ontario Medical bill; but there is one feature which, we think, is sure to command general approval, and that is the increased stringency of the penal clauses. Under the proposed amended Act it will no longer be possible for unqualified persons to advertise that they will give advice in physic, surgery, etc., as by doing so they render themselves liable to a heavy penalty. This sweeps out of the field of Ontario the travelling advertising quack, and so aims a deadly blow at one unblushing species of quackery. To carry out the proposed improvement in the law would of necessity require a determination to prosecute every offender. Hitherto there has been much reluctance observed on the part of medical men to appear in prosecution of offenders.

There are three principal points which challenge attention in the new draft Medical Bill, now printed and laid before the profession in Ontario for consideration. These are (1) the Division and Branch Medical Associations; (2) the annual contribution; (3) the licensing of midwives.

With respect to the Division Associations these proposed organizations ought to be capable of great usefulness. The character that may be given to them depends of course altogether upon the nature of the by-laws by which they are to be governed. The by-laws are as yet unformed, but there ought to be no difficulty in the way of making them correspond to those ruling the Medical Societies that already exist in certain cities and counties, having for their object the cultivation of medical science, the mutual improvement and assistance of members, and the protection of the profession against unprincipled adventurers and the public. The provisions in the Act relating to the drawing up of tariffs of

fees, and the legal effect which such tariffs shall possess after being signed by the President as "reasonable charges" within the meaning of the Act, show plainly that the protection of the profession in this regard is contemplated as within the scope of the Division Associations. We are all agreed as to the wisdom and necessity of unity and harmony in the profession, and these Associations ought to be made powerful means for promoting such invaluable objects. As to the promotion of science, the formation of libraries, etc., these are matters not to be lost sight of, but which of course will be left to each particular Association to determine for itself. If it be advisable to have Division Associations possessed of certain legal powers, it will be convenient further to have Branch Associations within the Division as contemplated by the bill. City, town, and township societies could in this way be formed in affiliation with the general body, to the great convenience of the respective members.

It follows from the adoption of an enlarged machinery and the greater efficiency which is sought to be given to the Medical Act by the bill to amend it, that there must be increased expenses devolving upon the Medical Council. Hitherto the expenses have been met out of a fund almost altogether made up of the fees paid by students on passing the examination for legal qualification. It is now proposed to levy an annual contribution from registered practitioners. The bill specifies that this contribution shall not be less than two dollars nor more than five dollars. It was the proposed annual contribution that evoked so much opposition when the bill was before the Legislative Assembly, and which opposition undoubtedly led to the failure of the measure. While it is proper and becoming that the expenses of the Council should not be left to be borne by students arrived at the termination of their studies and just entering the active work of their profession, when money is so much required by them, there need be no hesitation in saying that the minimum amount of the proposed annual contribution is more than can be required for the legitimate objects and expenses of the Medical Council. There will be renewed opposition to the exaction of any such sum, the larger amount being utterly out of the question.

The remaining leading point is the licensing of midwives by the Division Associations. In a late number we discussed the subject of the education of midwives, with respect to a similar proposition coming up in the United Kingdom. We then stated that the need of midwives was not so pressing in North America as in the mother country. This bill leaves it almost an open question, and it is for the Associations to decide upon the wants of their respective localities. The limitation of a license to midwives for one year places the subject more entirely under the control of the profession. It is worthy of remark in this connection that there are no existing provisions in Canada for the proper education of women in this department.

We are glad that the bill has been prepared sufficiently early, and in a form that will enable the profession in Ontario to become thoroughly

acquainted with it, so that when the Legislative Assembly meets its several provisions can receive the support or condemnation to which they may be entitled.

THE NEW MEDICAL BILL.

The draft bill to amend the Ontario Medical Act, which was considered by the Medical Council, at its June meeting, has now been printed, in the words of the endorsement, "for the consideration of the Council and of the Members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario." It is to be presumed, therefore, that copies will be sent to members, or that members can obtain them on application to the Registrar. In this place we propose to give an abstract of the provisions of the new bill:—

By the first section the corporate powers of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario are increased, with power to hold real estate and to sue and be sued as a body corporate. Subsequent sections refer to elections; and to the College is given the power to decide the legality of an election and to order a new election.

Members are given the power to change from one class of voters to another on presentation of the certificate of examiners as to special qualification.

Section 8 makes the action of the Executive Committee in the interim between the annual meetings legal and binding.

A new feature contemplated by the bill is the formation of Division Medical Associations, of which every member resident within the said territorial division shall be a member, the representative of the division being ex-officio chairman. The Council may make by-laws for the management of Division Associations, and the Division Associations may, if deemed expedient, establish Branch Associations in their divisions in affiliation with them, and to enact by-laws concerning all matters pertaining to the medical profession within their divisions. The by-laws to be subject to the approval of the Council, and to be signed by the President. The Council may enact by-laws to take effect in any territorial division, any by-law of the Division Associations to the contrary notwithstanding. The Division Associations may submit tariffs of fees, which on being signed by the President shall be held to be a scale of "reasonable charges" within the meaning of the Act. The Division Associations may appoint a public prosecutor to institute prosecutions against anyone acting in contravention of the Act. It shall be lawful for the Council to grant aid towards the payment of expenses of the Division Associations.

The fee for registration is to be fixed by by-law of the Council, and in special cases the Council may reduce the charge for registration when it may be deemed expedient. A reciprocity clause is added which admits British registered practitioners to registration, "so soon as it shall appear that the same privilege is accorded, and upon similar terms in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario."

An annual contribution of not less than two