

Correspondence.

AN OBJECTION TO A CERTAIN PORTION
OF THE PROPOSED MEDICAL ACT.

(To the Editor of the Lancet.)

SIR,—In looking over the proposed amendments to the Ontario Medical Act, I find a provision to the effect that it shall be within the power of each Territorial Division to license midwives. This I wish to oppose most strenuously as being totally uncalled for in a country which is flooded with doctors who have been thoroughly trained, and are therefore much more competent to deal with these cases than a midwife. I contend that as we have spent some of the most valuable years of our lives in the study of what is said to be a "noble profession" as well as considerable money, that we should be protected most stringently against the meddling interference on the part of old women, and further this is to many of us country doctors a very remunerating part of our business, and we would not like to be made by Legislative measures to pay from \$2 to \$5 a year for the support of an act which takes money out of our pockets, by placing it within the power of others who have never spent a farthing, nor lost an hour for the sake of becoming properly educated, to attend cases of confinement.

Where I am located I have to contend with two of these old bodies and a quack, who I must say have been pretty successful in their attendance on such cases. They charge \$2 (while I have \$5) for their attendance, and they get about 60 cases a year, which would amount in my hands to a very decent living for my small family. No doubt all this would pass into my hands were it not for them, as I am the only doctor within reasonable reach. I of course get a reasonable share of the business to do. A great deal of protection from quackery I have had for the \$10 I paid four years ago! and now from \$2 to \$5 a year is demanded by the Amended Act, which has been narrowed at one point and widened at another. I would say contract it at every point that it may be uniform throughout.

I ask any right thinking man if it would be just to ourselves to quietly consent to be robbed in this manner and pay a yearly tax to see that it is well

done. I do not know that I should object so much to the passage of the clause alluded to if doctors were as scarce and as difficult to be obtained as they were years ago, that time has long gone by, and now a doctor can be got in an hour or less from almost any village numbering from 50 inhabitants upwards, hence my reason for dispensing with midwives, who have caused the death of many a woman, as did one lately, if I am not mistaken, at Yorkville.

I have written this article for publication in the *Lancet* at the request of a number of physicians in the neighbourhood, who feel on the subject as I have written, and with a hope that it may arouse others to give their views on this important question, and thus give the Medical Council to understand that the sooner such clauses are done away with the better, and that what we want is such legislation as will put down with a firm hand all forms of quackery.

You must not understand that we object to being taxed, far from it; but we want protection that is protection, then go ahead with your tax of two, five or even ten dollars a year if you wish, only do the right thing by us.

(Signed,)

A CORRESPONDENT.

TREATMENT OF FEVERS.

(To the Editor of the LANCET.)

SIR,—In perusing the correspondence in the *Lancet* I can scarcely resist the conclusion that some of the writers are infected with a *carothes scribendi*, or they would not wish to trouble the profession throughout the Province with a history of some slight "jar" with a professional neighbour who happens to disturb, for the time being, their equanimity. Happily, most of the writers have chosen subjects that are of vital importance in advancing the interests of medical science, the objectionable ones being the exception to the general rule.

Notwithstanding the advancement that has been made in medical lore in times past, there is much yet to learn in regard to the treatment of disease. Evidence of this may be found in the number of deaths that are so frequently occurring in all directions—even in the practice of the most success-