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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.

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REMITTANCES.

Gentlemen who have not sent on their subscriptions for the MEDICAL TIMES are requested to remit One Dollar for the current six months without further delay. The system of advance payments must necessarily be adhered to.

It must be very gratifying to medical men to observe that with the local government of Ontario the question of medical coroners is apparently a settled thing. Of late all appointments of coroners have been filled by selecting medical practitioners. The peculiar fitness and qualification of medical men for these functions are evidently recognized, so that the battle which has long been fought by the profession on this question now goes in our favour. We trust that the day of appointing political personages to these offices for the mere purpose of gratifying a personal ambition, or tickling the vanity of an active electioneering agent, has gone by in this province never to return. The mischief done by this class of incompetent persons has been sufficiently obvious, whereas the special knowledge of the medical man fits him to conduct an inquest; and his keener acumen and higher training better fit him for becoming acquainted with the legal technicalities of the office; and consequently he is able to discharge the duties with more satisfaction to the public, and to do better service to the State. The concession thus paid to the medical profession, is a very small one compared with the prizes that fall to the lot of the legal fraternity; but such as it is, it is coveted apparently by very many of our body; and where a coroner is needed, and a medical man is to be found willing to accept the office, it is but just on many considerations that he should get the appointment. The justice of this claim is evidently recognized, and we are well satisfied that it is acted upon.

The great question of professional remuneration is an active one, not only in this country, but almost everywhere abroad. In Switzerland, in Spain, in France, and in Great Britain the medical fraternity are now struggling to advance their pecuniary interests by obtaining increased remuneration for professional work. The increased cost of living in all these countries and the higher rates of wages and salaries which the working and official classes have been able to obtain justify the doctor in demanding a higher fee. It would seem to be a fact that of all avocations that of the medical practitioner is the last to be adequately remunerated when the tendency of wages is upward.

Our readers will no doubt have been interested in the remarks on this head in the *Lancet*, which we reprinted last week, showing the endeavour which is being made in London to double the rate of consultation fees. It would be gratifying to witness the success of this movement, for assuredly the profession at large benefits by the success of and increased consideration paid to its leading members in any country.

In Ontario the medical profession is in a position to demand a higher scale of remuneration, and ought speedily to obtain it. It is preposterous that with higher rents and the greatly enhanced cost of almost every necessity of life, medical fees should remain almost what they were twelve or even twenty years ago, when the cost of living in Canada was so widely different from what it is now. How strongly does this state of things demonstrate the need of harmony and association amongst medical practitioners, instead of rivalry and a competition which is ruinous and destructive, and at the same time degrading to the profession.

We can only repeat the extreme advisability of forming medical associations and the framing of tariffs, soon destined, we hope, to have a legal effect and power, under the Medical Act, which aims at legalizing such tariff as reasonable scales of charges, and so making the proof of this fact quite easy in a court, instead of having to prove it by calling medical witnesses.

THE OURE FOR QUACKERY.

The Richmond and Louisville Medical Journal speaks boldly and justly on the cure for quackery. "There is but one remedy; it is a radical one, powerful, entirely efficient, if it be used. This is the medical press. Unfortunately, most of these presses are afraid to deal with this stupendous evil, and are as cowardly as most medical societies. Those presses that use every means to suppress charlatanism are abused and maligned, and have the most despicable motives attributed to them. It remains to be seen who are the strongest, the medical quacks and the scamps sustaining them, or the medical press."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

NECROLOGY.

THE LATE SIR HENRY HOLLAND.

Sir Henry Holland, Bt., M.D., F.R.S., D.C.L. Oxon, died at his residence in Brookstreet on Monday, the 27th October, on his eighty-sixth birthday, having but just returned from a continental tour with his son, the Rev. F. J. Holland, in which, as mentioned in the daily papers, he was present but a few days since at the court-martial of Marshal Bazaine.

The deceased baronet was a remarkable instance of a man rising to eminence in his profession whilst entirely cut off from all professional interests. He was never connected with a hospital (though his name was proposed and withdrawn when Dr. Frederick Chambers was elected to St. George's); he never held office in the College of Physicians, though one of its oldest Fel-

lows; nor was his face ever seen in public medical circles or at the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society, though he contributed a paper "On the Pella-gra, a disease prevailing in Lombardy," to the eighth volume of the Society's Transactions in the year 1817. Yet no name was better known in polite society during the last fifty years, and few failed to recognise the slight figure, bowed of late by age, and the intellectual face with its piercing eyes. Sir Henry was essentially *homme de société*, and having early in life gained his footing as a practitioner among the "upper ten," it was his pleasure—perhaps his foible—to be on intimate, or apparently intimate, terms with everyone of note. Whether in actual medical attendance or not upon any sick celebrity, Sir Henry's carriage was to be seen waiting at the door, and he always had the latest bulletin of the invalid's health. Admitted as a medical friend where others were denied, he enjoyed great opportunities of thoroughly knowing all those with whom he was intimate, and his remarks upon deceased celebrities in his "Recollections of Past Life," have thrown light upon the characters of many of the brilliant circle of wits and *littérateurs* with whom he was brought in contact.

It is, however, as a veteran traveller that Sir H. Holland was most remarkable. From the year 1814 to the present year he never, we believe, missed taking a lengthened autumn holiday, and had energy enough this summer to visit St. Petersburg, and having returned to London, to start again for Munich. Few men not professionally bound to travel could speak of eight visits to America, and probably no other pen could have written the following sentences, which our early in his "Recollections":—"The Danube I have followed with scarcely an interruption, from its assumed source at Donau-Esching to the Black Sea—the Rhine, now become familiar to common travel, from the infant ream in the Alps to the bifidus tractus et juncus paludibus ora which Claudian with singular accuracy describes as the end of Stilich's river journey. The St. Lawrence I have pursued uninterruptedly for nearly two thousand paces of its lake and river course. The waters of the Upper Mississippi I have recently navigated for some hundred miles below the Falls of St. Anthony. The Ohio, Susquehanna, Potomac, or Connecticut rivers I have followed far towards their sources; and the Ottawa, grand in scenery of waterfalls, lakes, forests, and mountain gorges, for three hundred miles above Montreal. There has been pleasure to me also in touching upon some single point of a river, and watching the flow of waters which come from unknown springs or find their issue in some remote ocean sea. I have felt this on the Nile at its time of highest inundation, in crossing the Volga when scarcely wider than the Thames at Oxford, and still more when near the sources of the stream that feed the Euphrates, south of Trebizond."

As President of the *Real Institution* Sir Henry Holland was able to popularise science by rendering the Friday evening lectures popular amongst the leaders of fashion. He was always