

CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE EDITOR,

DEAR SIR:—

To the Medical student the discussion of the subject of reciprocity which the journal is promoting is of the nature of glad tidings. He considers the examination which he must face in his final year as a sufficiently severe test of his qualification to practise and the fact that his license may depend upon his satisfying others than his professors is a cause for considerable uneasiness.

The student entering upon the study of medicine does not look about for the college whose requirements for graduation are most easily satisfied, but for the one which will most thoroughly prepare him for the practice of his profession, and whether in going to college he travels from home one hundred or one thousand miles is to him a matter of comparative indifference. This being so, were it not for the provincialism of our present system, the school which gave its undergraduates the best training would have the largest attendance and the conditions necessary for a great national school of medicine would exist. When we think of medical training in Scotland, Edinburgh comes at once to our minds, and in the United States, Baltimore. Why could we not have in Canada some such similar place. The first step in the direction of a national school would be a federation of the different medical colleges and the standardization of medical education throughout the Dominion. If the curricula of the various colleges could not be identical at least the final examinations should and these should be set and the papers read by a central board of examiners. From the undergraduates point of view the present system is mainly based upon inter-provincial jealousies. It makes each province the presence of the local association and instead of preventing poaching provides the conditions which make illegal practising possible. If the present provincial legislation and associations have as their chief *raison d'être* the control of quackery and charlatanism, it seems to the student that they are working from the wrong end as a strict uniformity in the requirements for graduation would accomplish this much more easily and certainly. In the opinion of the Student the professors who lecture to and train the men are alone able to pass upon their ability and to condition the licence upon the applicant satisfying the local practitioners in whose territory he may wish to do business is manifestly unfair. The student makes no protest against the expense or difficulty of obtaining a degree in medicine; let the requirements be as exacting as may be but let his degree entitle him to recognition throughout the Dominion.

Yours truly,

"STUDENT."