

# Ontario Medical Journal

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial Medical Associations will oblige by forwarding reports of the proceedings of their Associations.

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TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1892.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT.

The JOURNAL is pleased to announce that the Medical Council of British Columbia has made arrangements by which the JOURNAL goes free to every medical man in that Province. Dr. McGuigan has been selected by their Council as Editor of the British Columbia department, and he desires the medical men in his Province to send any articles or information of interest to him.

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## COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

The Discipline Committee of the Ontario Medical Council met on Thursday, December 8th, in the Council Chamber of the Medical Building, for the purpose of taking evidence in the cases of Dr. Anderson, of London, and Dr. McCully, of Toronto, against whom complaints have been laid of disgraceful conduct in a professional respect. The charges have been made under clause 34 of the Ontario Medical Act, which reads as follows :

34. (1) Where any registered medical practitioner has either before or after the passing of this Act, and either before or after he is so registered, been convicted either in Her Majesty's dominions or elsewhere of an offence which, if committed in Canada, would be a felony or misdemeanor, or been guilty of any infamous or disgraceful conduct in a professional respect, such practitioner shall be liable to have his name erased from the register.

(2) The Council may, and upon the application of any four registered medical practitioners, shall cause enquiry to be made into the case of a person alleged to be liable to have his name erased under this section, and on proof of such conviction or of such infamous or disgraceful conduct, shall cause the name of such person to be erased from the register ; provided, that the name of a person shall not be erased under this section on account of his adopting, or refraining from adopting the practice

of any particular theory of medicine or surgery, nor on account of a conviction for a political offence out of Her Majesty's dominions, nor on account of a conviction for an offence which, though within the provisions of this section, ought not, either from the trivial nature of the offence, or from the circumstances under which it was committed, to disqualify a person from practising medicine or surgery.

Considerable evidence was taken, a portion of which is given on page 216 of the JOURNAL. This evidence, with the report of the Committee, will be submitted to the Council at its next meeting in June, and the Council will act upon the same. As the cases are under consideration we refrain from expressing our opinion thereon. The case of Dr. Washington, whose name was erased from the register at the last meeting of the Medical Council, has been appealed, and was before the Court of Queen's Bench last week. Judgment has been reserved. For the past few years the Council has been using every means to rid the public of such men as prey upon their credulity. It is frequently blamed by the profession for not doing more, but no case is brought to the attention of the Council detective, Mr. Wasson, that is not promptly looked into and action taken thereon. During the past few months some fifteen or twenty cases have passed through his hands. Many have been allowed to go on the promise to discontinue practice, others have been fined, and some few have suffered from the effects of a short confinement under the care of Government officers. The Council is strongly recommended to go on with its good work, for as the guardian of the interest of the public, it is its duty to see that none but properly qualified men are allowed to practise ; and in cases where a credulous public is duped by conniving and unscrupulous medical men, it is the Council's duty to erase their names from the register, not so much in the interest of the profession as the public amongst whom they find their willing dupes and from whom they gather a rich harvest, and unfortunately the extortion is too often from those who are least able to bear the heavy burdens they impose. We can not see any reason why the medical profession should not be placed in the same position as the legal, and power given to it to strike from its rolls the name of any man who has violated the unwritten