

The Number of Medical Men and Medical Schools to the Population.

FROM *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal* of April we glean the following interesting figures, which bear out our contention in last issue that there is a ludicrous increase in the number of physicians. The ratio of medical men to the population is as follows :

Italy	1 to 3,536.
Germany	1 to 3,038.
Austro-Hungary	1 to 3,857.
France	1 to 2,666.

But the following table is still more instructive :

	Population.	No. of Physicians.	No. of Schools.	Schools to Population.
Sweden.....	4,802,751	3	1 to 1,600,917
Italy	30,347,291	8,580	21	1 to 1,445,109
Germany ...	49,428,470	16,270	20	1 to 2,471,923
Britain	37,740,285	22,105	16	1 to 2,358,767
Austro-Hungary...	41,231,342	10,690	8	1 to 5,153,917
France	38,343,139	16,593	7	1 to 5,477,591
United States	62,622,250	100,000	140	1 to 440,151
Canada.....	5,000,000 (?)	10	1 to 500,000

The above figures account for the fact that in Canada and the United States we have one medical man to every 600 persons, while in Britain there is only one to every 1,700.

It is absurd for this thinly populated and comparatively poor country to attempt to keep up ten medical colleges. One for the North-West, one for Ontario and two for Quebec is ample to supply all the medical men needed. The teachers would be better paid and do better work. The student would get the benefit of this, and ultimately the people.

From 1880 to 1890 there graduated in the United States no less than 40,996, or over 4,000 a year. This is certainly a ludicrous increase in the numbers.

In Canada, Britain and the United States the time spent in medical studies is much below that of many other countries.

We would again caution the young man to think twice before he decides to study medicine. It is a long road to travel and very difficult to retrace if the person should not be successful.