

# Ontario Medical Journal.

SENT FREE TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE PROFESSION IN ONTARIO  
AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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All Communications should be addressed to the Editor, 117 Cowan Avenue, Toronto.

VOL. II.]

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1893.

[No. 4.

*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.*

## Editorials.

### OBJECT OF EXISTENCE OF MEDICAL COUNCIL.

In Dr. Sangster's communication in this issue, the object for which the Medical Council was formed and still exists is discussed in his own inimitable style. He divides, as will be seen, his argument into three different classes by taking three premises.

1. The object is the protection of the public, and in dealing with this he quotes both the late President of the Council and our own editorial columns. Any body incorporated by the Legislature, dealing with questions of interest to the public and any one profession, must necessarily, to be of any use at all, be run as a safeguard to both parties. Primarily, as far as we can see, the public is protected by the hold on the profession. Anyone can see this by a little analysis.

The Council controls by its enactments and examinations the number of medical men launched on the country, and the actions of these medical men in their professional duties: and keeps down to the best of its ability, as far as the law permits, all infringements by quacks and fakirs. The benefit to the laity in these three items is plain. If there were no control over the number, we would be much more overstocked than we even now are; many would come in from other

countries and states, and by no means the best of them, simply ones who were unable to make a living where educated. This would leave the public open to be treated by almost any man or woman who cared to place the title of doctor before their names, and in many cases would cause a great deal of ill-work to be done. After giving men their diplomas and licenses to practise, by watching the actions of many—for even in our profession persons will creep in with the intention of doing dishonest work—who would employ their brains against the main interests of the public in ways other than dealing with their health, much good is done. As for the third idea, no one can deny their use in controlling quacks and fakirs, the Discipline Committee doing its work very thoroughly.

2. The object is the protection of the medical electorate. We easily grant our correspondent that one of the main workings of the Council fulfils this, but as we have shown it is not the principal thing done. We hardly need go into the work of the Council in this line as it is already well known. As we said above, the handling of cases against fakirs and others of that ilk has been exhaustive, and in most cases fairly successful. Our remarks as to the protection of the public to save repetition also strongly show the benefit of the Council to the profession generally. Dr. Sangster tries to prove the contrary to this by speaking of his so-called abundance of illegal practitioners, etc., but he gives