

# THE CANADA LANCET:

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*Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.*

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## MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEDICAL TARIFFS.

We are glad to note the activity evident in the formation of Medical Societies in different parts of Ontario, and trust that many more associations of this kind will yet speedily be formed under the influences of appreciation and example. While we desire to encourage the formation of city, town, and township societies, we wish to point that out, with a view to legalizing a tariff of fees as a scale of "reasonable charges" under the Act, it is necessary that such tariffs should be submitted to the Council by the Division Association. This implies the formation of Territorial Division Associations; and as a consequence it is this kind of medical society that requires to be first of all established in the electoral divisions. It may be worth while in this place to quote the eighteenth section of the Ontario Medical Act, which especially applies to the formation of medical associations:—

18. "In each of the territorial divisions described in schedule C of this Act there may be established a 'Territorial Division Medical Association' which may be briefly called the Division Association of such division; every member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, resident within the said territorial division, shall be a member; and the representative in the Council shall be *ex officio* chairman of such Division Association."

19. "The said Division Association may from time to time submit to the Council a tariff or tariffs of professional fees, suitable to their division, or to separate portions of their division; and upon the said tariff or tariffs of fees receiving the approval of

the Council, signified by the seal of the College and by the signature of the President thereof being appended thereto, such tariff or tariffs shall be held to be 'a scale of reasonable charges' within the meaning of section number thirty of this Act, for the division or section of a division where the member making the charge resides."

On considering this part of the Medical Act it will be seen, that the existence of a Division Association is essential to the legalizing of a tariff of fees, though of course the tariff of any particular locality may be framed by a smaller local society and, being assumed by the Division Association, and the other necessary formalities being duly observed, may become of legal effect to the particular portion of the division covered by the local society. This is a wise feature of the law. It is obvious that considerations may be found to exist, which require a difference in the scale of charges to be made in different portions of a territorial division—differences which may be properly left to the decision of the local societies.

And yet we offer it as a point worthy of consideration, that the committees engaged in framing tariffs, should study to attain a certain degree of uniformity in the scales of charges, and to bring them strictly within the bounds of fairness. They will thus be more likely to receive the sanction of the Medical Council and the consent of the public. Glaring differences in the scales of remuneration will be noticed in the different tariffs already published; for instance, on examination it will be found that there is a wide difference in some of the corresponding items of the tariffs of the Chatham and North Ontario Societies, as published in our last number.

We desire to point out an item which supplements the fee bill of the North Ontario Association, as one worthy of commendation and imitation. It is the resolution that accounts are to be furnished every three months. We feel confident that if this resolve were generally acted up to, it would result in a material gain to the profession.

It may not be without interest in this connection to mention, that the medical profession in Boston follow the practice of having printed on the backs of their accounts the tariff of fees agreed to by the physicians, with the statement that each physician may make any deductions therefrom which the position or circumstances of the patient may war-