

## CORRESPONDENCE.

gain in the long run, inasmuch as it would diminish the number of practitioners, and it would be a gain for the time being as well. The leading offices would always get clerks, even if a heavy fee were demanded. If a few lawyers could be induced to adopt this system, others would soon follow. Each one will perhaps say, "I am willing, but what is the use of one trying such a plan." Every individual exercises some influence. Let one or two try it, and others will follow. We would suggest that practitioners in each locality form themselves into a sort of club, and adopt some system in this matter, to which all will agree to conform. It is not much to say that, under the present system, the profession must at least double every five years. It is suicidal to permit the present system to continue. I advocate a thorough change. For admission, let the practising attorney enter into articles with no clerk who does not bind himself to serve his full time without fee or reward, directly or indirectly, and who does not pay a fee to the attorney. Let the fees to the Law Society be doubled, and ditto of the examinations. For call, let fees and examinations be trebled. There is not sufficient distinction between the two professions here. Let there be a greater difference between the requisites for each, and the distinction will soon become more marked. Students, and those intending studying, may say, "Oh, it is all very well for you who are in the profession to talk this way!" This is no argument. Amongst those now in, as well as those who come in, the most able will get the best business. If the system is wrong, it is but a poor answer to say, "It has been so for thirty years, ergo it must continue for ever," for if such an argument were a good answer now, it would be equally so in five, ten, fifty, or a hundred years. Our colony is rapidly approaching manhood: let us do all we can for its welfare. If a system which may have worked quite well enough while the colony was in its infancy is found not suitable to our more advanced years, let us not permit any reigning sentiment to prevent our applying the pruning knife. Both the country and the profession demand a change; the sooner one is effected the better for both country and profession. Let it be thorough, inaugurating such a system as will answer the wants of this generation.

In making these remarks I am actuated by no selfish motives, but offer them as one of the community, believing it to be for the weal of the community that a thorough change be made. And, granting that individual hardships might result from such a change, it is better that one of the community should suffer, if thereby the community as a whole be the gainer, than that the community should suffer and one be the gainer. And if young men find it easier to earn a living in some other walk in life, they will turn their attention to something else. There is ample scope, our country is young, Commerce, manufactures, agriculture, mechanics, mining, all present wide fields for enterprise and energy. There is no necessity for leaving the country, none other presents better prospects for young men of perseverance and application—given the will, the way can be made. Our resources are ample, requiring but individual thought and effort to develop them. If a portion of the community were forced to turn its attention to something else, the whole would be a gainer.

Much of the foregoing is applicable to the sister profession of medicine. Both professions are too easily obtained. The Law Society is in the hands of able and competent men; if, however, the profession is indifferent, the benches may well be excused in letting things alone. If the governed are satisfied, the governor may well be quiescent.

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A BARRISTER.

[The elevation of our profession as a whole is a praiseworthy object. People may differ as to the means of attaining that end, but all will agree as to the desirability of the object proposed. Without committing ourselves to all the views of our able correspondent, we sincerely recommend his communication to all who have the welfare of our profession at heart, and in this instance the welfare of the profession and of the public is one and the same. But, while endeavouring to redress an evil of one kind, we must be careful not to go too far, and so fall into one of an opposite character. Many men of acknowledged ability have become members of our profession who would have been excluded had there been no salaries and high fees for admission. The standard of excellence may