

THE CANADA LANCET.

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Science, Criticism and News.

Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Address, DR. J. L. DAVISON, 12 Charles St., Toronto.

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THE ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The last session of the Medical Council, as at present constituted, has come and gone; all the members were present, including Sir Jas. Grant, whose political duties had hitherto largely interfered with his attendance. As was anticipated, no new legislation of an important or radical character was introduced; this is right, inasmuch as the incoming Council may, in some respects, differ from its predecessor. A few of the territorial representatives have announced their intention of retiring from the field; the redistribution of seats and addition of five affected by the recent amendments to the Medical Act, and the chances and changes that are inseparably a feature of all elections will, to some extent, alter the *personnel* of our next Council; therefore, considering the differences of opinion in the profession as evinced by the controversies of the past year or two, it is only fair to every medical man in the Province that on important questions his voice should figuratively be heard through the ballot box.

An offer having been made for the college property, the disposal of which is a main plank in the platform of the Council's critics, it resolved itself into a grave problem and received much consideration. The amount offered was in excess of the cost, and, while perhaps an inducement in the minds of some to sell, it was self evident proof that the acquisition of real estate was not a wild speculation. Toronto property, so those who know best say, is at rock bottom figures. Before

next session it is not probable that we shall see depreciation. The mind of the profession as to the desirability of retrenchment in this respect can be ascertained only through the electorates' action at the polls; and, therefore, it was concluded to leave the matter for the present in abeyance.

Dr. Philip, in accordance with the usual custom, was advanced from the vice-presidency to the presidential chair, and showed such good judgment, that, although at times debate waxed hot, we are not aware of an instance in which his ruling was called in question. There was keen competition for the honor of the vice-presidency, which was secured by Dr. Harris, the representative of Trinity University.

The Registrar and Treasurer having discharged their duties satisfactorily were re-appointed.

From the prosecutor's report it is assuring to learn that a large number of charlatans have been dealt with by the law, and, in order to facilitate this work and stamp out these pests of society, it would be well for every medical man to recognize his individual responsibility in the way of furnishing information; by so doing he need incur no false opprobrium, for, unless he so desires, his name in connection with such affairs is never dragged into publicity.

The Discipline Committee reported upon the cases of three practitioners charged with unprofessional conduct; in each case the evidence sustained the indictment, two out of the three names were ordered to be erased from the register, and in the third case, for what appeared good reason, action was deferred. The feeling of the members seems to be that the leniency heretofore exercised has been taken advantage of, and that the time has now come when justice is more desirable than mercy.

From the Ontario Medical Association was received a resolution adopted in its recent meeting condemnatory of lodge and contract practice, and requesting the Council to construe it as *unprofessional*, and therefore to purge the profession of all engaged in it. The Council's power in this regard is limited in the statute by the phrase "*grossly unprofessional or infamous*." To seek for further legislation giving increased prerogative would at the present juncture be perhaps injudicious and possibly would encounter the personal prejudice of a majority in the Legislature.