

Correspondence.

The Editors are not responsible for any views expressed by correspondents.

Dr. Williams' Reply to Dr. Sangster.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW.

SIR,—In your December number, I notice a letter from Dr. Sangster, a large share of which was written for my especial benefit. The first paragraph I cannot claim. It is to chastise the *Practitioner*. I have not seen their article, but suppose they are deserving it. If not they can take care of themselves.

The doctor and his followers have a passion for writing. Other members of the Council are usually content to allow them to write on without comment; only now and again, when they become particularly personal, is any reply made. Their reasons for getting into print are not difficult to find. The custom of the Council for very many years, probably from its inception, has been to conduct its business without parties. Each member used his individual judgment on every question that presented, and voted accordingly; and each member had the same right as every other to introduce such business as he thought in the interest of the profession. They were then satisfied, if the transactions of the Council could be got into the hands of their constituents, who would approve or condemn in accordance with their judgments. The election of Dr. Sangster and his co-workers has made a change. We now have an organized opposition without a government, or any party whose especial duty it is to conduct the business of the Council. The absurdity of such an opposition would strike most people. It strikes this party. They feel, no doubt keenly, that the position they have taken needs more justification than can be obtained in the ordinary way. They cannot trust their case to the electors with the transactions of Council as their guide, but feel it necessary to support themselves by brilliant literary pyrotechnics, which, it is hoped, will so dazzle the ordinary reader that he will at once fall into line. Our friend, the doctor, admittedly clever in this way, is selected for the work. Hence the necessity of getting into print and speaking of the "Solid Phalanx," the "Inner Circle," the "Head Centres," etc., etc., with mystical phrases intended to convey the impression that there is a party in Council other than the one led by the doctor.