

### False Medical Lights.

*To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW.*

SIR,—Recently a fellow-practitioner, whom we will style Dr. A, overlooked statement of claim for \$20 for ten visits and use of catheter at each visit made by Dr. B, of a neighboring village, with the result that Dr. B's claims were reduced to \$5. Dr. A, in thus reducing the fees of Dr. B, was solely prompted so to do to please the whims of B's patient. I mention this instance to illustrate the fact that the greatest enemies we have are those of our own profession, that is, where a uniform system or tariff of fees is under consideration. But when we consider that Dr. A is but an illustration of one of a class of M.D.'s of which nearly every village and small town is the unfortunate possessor, and that he has several occupations, from the meanest of which he draws an income greater than from the practice. We can readily understand how slowly and unsympathetically his pulse responds to the interests of his fellow-practitioner whose existence depends alone on his practice; whose best energies are in his profession; whose skill and value to his community as a physician are only equalled by the glory he gives to the medical profession in all of its best interests. That such as Dr. A, or those who to increase their number of shekels resort to other occupations foreign to the practice, should be allowed to practice when so much depends on the mind's clearest efforts, enriched by experience and constant study, is certainly in opposition to the best interests of patients, to medical progress, and hurtful to the profession, inasmuch as such men are always opposed to big fees, or even moderate fees. Yes, such men are actually dangerous, misdirecting in their counsels, and should be classed with those M.D.'s who dishonor their exalted titles by the recommendation of a patent medicine, or classed with the lowest of mortals—the doctors of divinity who allow their names to appear as endorsers of such worthless compounds whose names disgrace our public prints.

We have provincial inspectors for various professions or callings and our Council, and it would appear as if it would be in the interests of the people that said Council should make inquiries in regard to the licentiates in this Province, that is, ascertain how many are actually living by and devoting their best energies to the practice. While writing this I hear that a fellow-practitioner in a neighboring village lost in one week two cases as the result of puerperal septicæmia. When we reflect that the said M.D. is engaged in farm work, has an