

Correspondence.

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

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW :

SIR,—Some months ago I wrote a communication to your journal on "Medical Prodigies," and later on "Medical Doctor," to both of which you kindly gave space. I have since they appeared received letters of congratulation, and have been pressed for further expressions on these lines. Graduating at McGill College in 1866, I am now an old practitioner, and on this account I have had perhaps an average opportunity of seeing things as they are, and may be allowed to express my individual deductions on matters relating to our profession. With your permission I will add a few more thoughts, and shall not object if others do not see things exactly as I do. I like our school system in as far as it educates free of cost to the pupil up to the fifth form. After that I object *in toto*. My idea is that elementary education should be free, and that as far as the public and High schools are concerned, the examinations should be free too. I do not think that school principals, who are already well paid, should receive anything extra for examinations, or the correction of examination lists with the determination of standing of pupils. These should be part of their duties for which, I hold, they are well paid. Then above and beyond the High School, every pupil should be charged, say, two-thirds of all expenses. It is well enough to say the Collegiate Institute is the poor man's university, but that does not excuse you or I, or any one else bearing the burden of giving even the poor man's son or daughter a higher education. It does not excuse the fact that in so doing we are educating from the carpenter's bench and the plough into professions already overcrowded. It does not excuse making of non-producers of natural producers in a new country requiring brain and muscle in the manufactory, the field and the mine. It does not excuse overfilling professions already overcrowded. It is also said, but you get good men. Certainly we do, but at what cost? Our cheese and butter stand foremost in the British market, the first supplying 5-6ths and the latter 1-7th of the total consumed. Does not this tell us that brain and brawn are still needed on the farm? We are opening gold mines in almost every section of this western country of ours. Is no intelligence required here? And our agricultural implements are seeking a wider market. Is it not better to send these out of our country than the scholars whom our schools and colleges are belching