

## THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

A Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery.

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SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

*All communications and Exchanges must be addressed to  
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MONTREAL JUNE, 1886.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SUR-  
GEONS, PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

We hope to see a large attendance at the Tri-Annual Meeting of the College in Montreal on the 14th July. Perhaps it will be the most important session which the College has had for many years, as the question of a Central Examining Board, and an alteration in the method of electing the Governors comes up for discussion and decision.

In our last issue we intimated that we were in favor of both these changes being made. Indeed a new departure is necessary in electing Governors. or the College will never obtain the support of the mass of the profession, who now give it little or no sympathy and grudgingly pay their annual assessment of two dollars. Our article on this subject in the May number of the *Record* has called forth several letters from subscribers, the most important of which comes from a well-known and distinguished physician in the Eastern Townships, He says :

"I have just been reading your editorial in the May No. of your Journal anent the changes contemplated by the College of P. and S., Quebec. Do not for one moment fancy I have any ambition to gratify in the matter. I have none whatever. But I have had thirty long years of experience in affairs appertaining to our profession, and should know something whereof I speak. You state that the Profession as a whole in this Province take but little interest in the transactions of the College. Do you wish me to suggest a very simple remedy? Bring the constituencies in the first place into more satisfactorily-defined limits, ignore entirely the old and antiquated divisions in use, and take the modern ones, *i. e.*, those adopted at the time of the passing what was called the Judicial Decentralization Act. This every one of ordinary intelligence understands. Although originally intended for judicial purposes, it

was later made the basis of representation in the Senate at Ottawa and also in the Legislative Council of this Province. I might go still further, but it is not necessary—you see, we know each other fairly well, either personally or by reputation—in each of these divisions, and it brings home to every one of us a personal interest in the election, and without which things will go on in the future as they have in the past. Now this point I perceive you mention in your editorial, but you do not seem to think it of the importance that I do.—Fancy any *other* election to take place on any other than the well-defined basis at present in use, and you will soon see much of the interest and zeal in that cause disappear. There will be healthy rivalries and local pride excited, that will never, in my humble opinion, be created if you persist in the present unnatural divisions; dues will be more promptly paid (in order perhaps to secure a vote), and local feeling and interest aroused which cannot but result in the general good of the profession. This of course must exclude the possibility of electing or nominating any candidate not actually a resident of the District at the time of the election.—I do not know the number of Governors now allowed by the Act, but I believe there are *nineteen* judicial districts in this Province. If I am correct, surely that number would not be too great, even with the augmentation you refer to from the Colleges."

"Let me just say, in conclusion, that I think there are very few people living about here, whether medical men or not, who know the limits or extent of our own district. That I *do not* is most certainly true. I am a native of this place, and expected to vote intelligently for the district in which I have always lived, and yet cannot tell you whether or not the man I might favor lives within this jurisdiction. But I *do* know the borders or boundaries of this district. I am led to make these remarks because I notice there is a clause in the proposed changes which bears upon the point. Unless things are better defined in these respects, you will readily see no general professional interest in college matters can be awakened. And I quite agree with you that it is high time that the entire membership should feel that individual concern in the College which its importance deserves."

"Do not misunderstand me—what I feel of *vital* importance is to so change the rules as to admit of *one* Governor being elected from each judicial district in the Province, whether rural or city, and