

Correspondence.

CORONERS' FEES.

To the Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER AND REVIEW.

SIR,—I would like to call the attention of yourself and readers to the low inquest fees chargeable by Ontario coroners. I think they are too low for the time and labor necessary at inquests. I have just finished two enquiries, in one of which there was one adjournment, in the other on two bodies killed in a railway collision with two adjournments, in which some twenty hours' sitting was put in and the total fees only amounted to \$27.60, with preparation and sitting the best part of three days taken up. Many simple cases, without recognizances would not average more than ten dollars, are longer, more important seldom run over sixteen or eighteen dollars. Now, sir, I think the remuneration is altogether too small. I think the affidavit before a magistrate should be \$1.00, taking recognizances, \$1.00 each, every adjournment \$1.00, view of body whether an inquest be deemed advisable or not \$5.00, and mileage twenty cents each way, or would it be better to have a bulk sum? A County Judge gets from \$50.00 to \$100.00 for each Court; why not a coroner acting in like capacity get the same? We have to admit that law as a profession is more awake to its own interests. A lawyer gets a good round schedule fee while the doctor takes the miserable pittance thrown him by insurance companies and fraternal societies at their figures, not his. Why should this be? and why should coroners be content with fees that are not fairly remunerative?

Do you not think that it would be well to form a Coroners' Association to discuss the common interest, and if desirable make such representation to the Government as may lead to a desirable increase?

I think I cannot do better, after calling your attention to this matter, than leave it in the hands of some of our city brethren to take action if they think well of the suggestion.

I am sir, yours truly,

P. PALMER BURROWS.

Lindsay, Sept. 30, 1902.