

Correspondence.

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

Reflections.

The Expression "Doc." . . . The Drug Store "Doctor" . . . Patent Medicines . . . Wealthy Physicians . . . Tariff of Fees.

To the Editor CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW.

SIR,—The expression "Doc." is becoming more and more common in this Province, and no medical gentleman of any pretensions or worth, who has respect for the exalted title of "Doctor," which he during the best few years of life worked zealously to obtain, can otherwise regard himself than humiliated when addressed as "Doc." "Doc" is by the rough element of every country town or village applied to such who obtain a certificate as V.S., or to some sport about town. It is really an expression that should be stamped out by every physician.

It has been my sad experience to have lived in places wherein the really licensed M.D. has secured his stronghold in a drug store. His position is such that he dispenses his drugs, advice and skill at rates which his fellow-practitioners, relying on their practices, cannot adopt and keep their families. As a rule, no greater stumbling-blocks as regards adherence to the Divisional Tariff of Fees exist greater than these "condition powders" doctors. He reads but little medicine, frequently criticises your prescriptions, and, among several faults, is doing quietly a lot of good work for the patent medicine man, and frequently that same man is the doctor himself.

So much has been written about patent medicines condemnatory of their sanction by medical men, that I will state that it is my opinion that in recommending or prescribing such preparations as "seng," "H.V.C.," "broncholine" and the hundred or more of such preparations, we are to a great extent but endorsing patent medicines; yes, encouraging a company probably composed of really qualified M.D.'s, who, not wishing to undergo the toils of professional life, probably rich or backed up in the enterprise by a few rich loafer-companions, push a medicine or preparation before our notice, and being recommended as specifics by many who like to see their "names in print" — by J. Smith, M.D., Alligator Creek, Florida, to W. H. Brown, M.D., Hudson Bay P.O., Manitoba; or by Peter Physic, M.D., Sc.B., Orange Grove, Cal., or some Blue Nose M.D., of Blue Nose P.O.,