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TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere, current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial medical associations will oblige by sending their addresses to the corresponding editor.*

TORONTO, JULY, 1877.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND ITS AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS.

The recent action of the Government, in abolishing all existing affiliations between the University of Toronto and the different teaching bodies in the country, has been the subject of a good deal of controversy, and is not without its points of interest. On sober reflection, we think no one will be prepared to controvert the statement, that the principle upon which formerly existing affiliations were based was calculated to inflict grave injustice in certain directions, and that the time had fully come when some modification of that principle was necessary. We regard it as a matter for congratulation, in the first place, that the Senate fearlessly grappled with the difficulty and gave the first impulse to the legislation which will, we confidently hope, effect such an adjustment of anomalies formerly in existence as will place all purely teaching bodies on precisely the same footing. It is also a matter for congratulation that, at the recent meeting of Convocation, so unanimous an expression of opinion was offered that double affiliation should be at once and forever abolished. It must be very apparent to any one who has watched at all closely the history of the University, that such a principle as that of double affiliation could only bring disaster to that institution and strengthen the hands of those labouring in the interests of its rivals. We are not going to dispute the right of any one to extend his sympathies to institutions rival in their character to the University, as that would

involve the discussion of a very much broader question; but, we do say most unhesitatingly that no measure should be adopted which can only have the effect of building up these rival institutions at the cost of seriously impairing the influence and usefulness of the Provincial University. We take exception, most decidedly, to the assertion, made at the recent meeting of Convocation, that the question whether there are ten, twenty or fifty medical graduates each year is a matter of complete indifference to the University. Such a sentiment as this, coming from a gentleman professing devotion to the welfare of the University, is, to us, a matter of infinite surprise. Will any one pretend to say that an institution established for the purpose of granting degrees in the departments of arts, law, and medicine, and maintained at an enormous cost to the country, should not encourage, in every lawful way, such measures as will carry out these objects to the fullest extent? Surely, no one will soberly say that it is a matter of no consequence whether the graduates in *any* department are many or few. On the contrary, so long as the standard of professional attainments, as well as general culture, is sufficiently elevated, as it is presumed it now is, the greater the number of those prepared to come to that standard and receive their degrees, the wider must necessarily be the circle of influence and usefulness of the University.

It was intimated, in no very delicate or complimentary terms, that the qualifications necessary for attaining to a degree in medicine in Toronto University were of a doubtful character. This, if true, involves a very grave reflection upon the honesty of the authorities of that institution. But we have no hesitation in saying that such an insinuation is utterly groundless, and ought to be repelled as unworthy of any gentleman calling himself a friend of the University. We challenge contradiction when we say, from a personal knowledge both of the standard of attainments required and of those who have been entrusted with the management of the examinations, that the curriculum will compare most favourably with that of any similar institution in existence.