

The Dominion Medical Journal,

A MONTHLY RECORD OF
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE.

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TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1869.

WE copy from the *Canada Medical Journal*, of last month, a letter by Dr. Marsden, of Quebec, reviewing the Ontario Medical Act, and we are pleased to find that a gentleman of the well known abilities and shrewd foresight, which characterizes Dr. Marsden, has, after careful consideration, concluded that this was the best Bill which could be obtained under the circumstances. We felt confident that it just required of the opponents of this Bill to throw aside prejudice and pecuniary interest and listen to those arguments which can be used in its favor, to enable them to see clearly the great necessity which existed for the enactment of this wise measure.

THE attention of the profession has been attracted to the attempt lately made to pass some amendments to the Ontario Medical Act. These amendments were certainly sprung upon the profession, no intimation having been given that such amendments were required or even asked for by the Medical Council. From what we can learn, it seems that the homœopathic members were not satisfied with the present manner of holding examinations, and were anxious that they should have some control over the examination and passing of every candidate in all branches. This we consider an uncalled for and unwarrantable intrusion on their part, and as such we are happy to say that the Committee, to whom this bill was presented for consideration, have concluded to let it stand for the present. If any amendments are required to the present Bill, the Medical Council, at its next meeting, can take such measures as they think proper to introduce into Parliament a Bill for that purpose; we certainly think that they are the proper parties from whom anything of the kind should emanate.

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

WE have received and place with pleasure on our exchange list the *Oregon Medical and Surgical Reporter*, published at Salem, Oregon Territory. Edited by E. R. Fiske, A.M., M.D., assisted by the medical faculty of Willamette University.

WE call the attention of the profession to the advertisement in our columns of the *Scientific American*. This is one of the leading scientific journals of this continent, and always contains reading matter of interest to the medical man. It is deserving of our support.

HITCHCOCK'S new Monthly Magazine is devoted to choice music and select reading for the family circle. In the present number we notice an excellent likeness of the renowned songstress Carlotta Patti. It can be obtained through the book stores for the sum of 25 cents per month.

WE call the attention of the profession to a report of Dr. Jacobi, upon the new anæsthetic. We will obtain some, if any medical gentleman is anxious to experiment with it.

THE *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter* will, as a New-Year's present, send a steel engraved portrait of Prof. Gross to their subscribers.

Correspondence.

THE MEDICAL ACT.

For the Dominion Medical Journal.

A great deal of nonsense has been written and spoken about the Ontario Medical Act, its supposed elevation of heterodoxy to an equality with the regular profession, and the indignity of the association imposed by it.

If we could only divest ourselves of prejudice, and view the matter as it is, we would find the evils complained of, if not altogether imaginary, at least more than compensated for, by the elevating influence which it must exert over all future licentiates.

We cannot ignore the fact that homœopathy was elevated to an equality with the regular profession, before the people, and in the eye of the law, when it obtained its Act of Incorporation, by means of Lower Canada influence, under the leadership (I believe) of Mr. Dunkin, in the late Parliament of Canada; nor must we forget that the eclectics were placed in the same advantageous position by their Act of Incorporation, which was obtained shortly afterwards.

Now, the Ontario Bill confers no privileges and gives them no status, which they did not enjoy previously, under their own Acts of Incorporation, while it does give the assurance that future licentiates shall be so well qualified in all the essentials that they will not by their ignorance disgrace that profession from which, under the old laws, it was difficult, if not impossible, to exclude them.