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Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements Inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.

AGENTS.—DAWSON BROS., Montreal; J. & A. McMILLAN, St. John. N.B.; GEO. STREET & Co., 30 Cornhill, London, Eng.; M. H. MAHLER, 16 Rue de la Grange Bateliere, Paris.

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THE ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL AND THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

It is above all things desirable that the Medical Council and the medical schools should co-work with the utmost harmony. So far, this has happily been the case, and it is very desirable that it should continue undisturbed. So long as the Council discharges its duties faithfully, and the several schools continue to perform their work well, no jarring of any kind need be feared.

In the annual announcement of the Council for eight or nine successive years, a clause appears to the effect that "each six-months course *shall* consist of one hundred lectures." This regulation has been scrupulously carried out year after year by several of our medical schools; Trinity College, Toronto; McGill College, Montreal; and also, we believe, in the Kingston Medical School. Up to the present time the tickets, certified by the several professors of all the schools, were received by the Council, as they are in England and elsewhere, as affording ample evidence of the pupil's attendance. In the Council annual announcement for 1869 and '70, in a note, attendance upon at least *four-fifths* of the actual teaching days of the session was required, but this was never acted upon, and was soon left out altogether, tickets being accepted, certified in the usual form. Last year, the number of lectures attended was required by the announcement to be certified upon each ticket, and the tickets thus certified were accepted as they always had been.

This year a *new* regulation appears in the announcement, which requires "that *two* certificates shall be endorsed on the ticket; one specifying

the number of lectures delivered in the course, and the other *testifying* that the pupil has attended at least 75 per cent. of the same." This regulation, of course, requires regular daily roll-calling, in school style, to make it anything but a farce, making school-teachers of the professors and school-boys of the students, wasting at least one-fifth of each lecture hour, and thus diminishing at once the teaching time by from 20 to 25 per cent. The mere publication of this injudicious, and to our mind, useless regulation, has led to a good deal of irritation among professors and students alike, in more than one medical school. Is it wise on the part of the Council thus gratuitously to create unpleasant feeling in the breasts of those whose cordial support is surely very well worth having, or to alienate, by a useless and vexatious rule like this, many of the oldest and best medical teachers, who are known to be bitterly opposed to it? Such a regulation effects nothing. Good lecturers, and good, punctual and interesting teachers, will always have good classes. Students are readily attracted by good, regular teaching, but they are not children, and cannot and will not be driven into attendance by mere roll-calling. Were it otherwise, they would hereafter make but very spiritless members of a noble profession. But the ill-will engendered by this rule, although quite enough to condemn it at once in the mind of every sensible man, is not by any means its worst feature.

While as we have already stated, in some of our schools, as Trinity, McGill, &c., one hundred lectures are given upon each of the branches, in at least one school, viz, the Toronto School of Medicine *eighty* lectures only, constitute on many branches the *full* course. Seventy-five per cent of 100 or 75 lectures would therefore be required from one set of students, while seventy-five per cent of 80, or 60 lectures only, would suffice for another set. This is so manifestly unfair that we see no other way out of the difficulty, than either the setting aside of both rules, or the carrying out of both according to the strict letter of the regulation.

The Medical Council has the entire examinations of every student in its own hands, and we are very glad that this is the case, and that body can well afford to leave the matter of teaching and class attendance in the hands of the medical teachers. All the Council or its Board of Examiners need require is, that the student has so far attended his