

CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR.—Having been one of the small talkers who attended the late meeting of the Canada Medical Association, I was somewhat surprised to find myself in company with so large a proportion of members so like myself in this respect; for though several of the papers then read were of considerable merit, the discussions which followed were certainly the most frivolous, and to use no stronger term, erratic, ever listened to by an intelligent and patient audience.

It appeared to me too, as I believe it did to not a few other members, that the permanent secretary seemed to regard the association as his own proper machine, and that it must be run just as he deigned to permit, for no matter of ordinary business was allowed to be proceeded with, without his jumping to his legs, like jack-in-the-box, every now and again, to overrule, or to ridicule, almost every proposed measure. I had supposed that the secretary was a paid officer, whose simple duty it is to make true minutes, and keep an accurate record, of the proceedings, and that all rulings of order should emanate from the presiding officer; but it was pretty evident to attending members that the secretary regarded that functionary as but an ornamental cypher. In plain language, Dr. David would do well to learn, should the association not come to an early demise, that he will act prudently by observing in future a more becoming reticence.

The question of organising a distinct medical association has been under consideration in Ontario. It is my belief that our province is well able to support such an organization, whether as a separate, or a tributary one. The itinerant system of holding meetings, one year in the west, and perhaps the next in the far east, where neither numerical accession, professional zeal, nor fiscal contributions, hold out allurements, is certainly very unpromising of vigorous persistent vitality. The actual inevitable result has been, hitherto, the suspension of life of the association during its distant pilgrimages, and the rotten accumulation of unpaid annual subscriptions. I do not believe that I misstate the fact when I say, that but for the recruiting of the funds by these visits to Ontario within the last four years, the association must have gone into insolvency; whilst it has been an un-

happy circumstance that not a French Canadian physician excepting the treasurer, has deigned to honour our Ontario meetings with his presence. This would seem to me to indicate that a *Dominion* organization is equally a hindrance to medical progress in Lower as in Upper Canada. No one would regret more than I should do, the loss at our meetings of such men as Drs. Hingston, Howard, Campbell, Osler, Rodick, and others who have been real ornaments to the body, but there could be no objection to such an affiliation as might still secure their continuous brotherhood.

In closing these hasty remarks, may I ask you Mr. Editor, if it is in strict accordance with medical etiquette, or social decency, for members giving details of cases, to pronounce aloud the names of their patients? This violation of professional decorum took place in the London meeting several times, without reprehension from the chair.

Yours, etc.,

UNUS E PLURIBUS.

Selected Articles.

ONTARIO AND BRITISH MEDICAL.
QUALIFICATIONS.

[The following article from the *London Lancet*, September 6th, shows the feeling in England in regard to the recent action of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Medical Council.]—ED. LANCET.

Not only the rights of government and legislation, but the progress of medical science itself, in the Province of Ontario, are said to be in jeopardy. Our readers will be as curious to know the causes of this painful state of matters, as they will be surprised when they learn the nature of the circumstances which are jeopardising the rights of our fellow-subjects in the province of Ontario and the progress of medical science. The one cause of such a distressing condition of things is that gentlemen who have satisfied the examining authorities of Great Britain and been registered in the Imperial Register have, under the Act of 1858, the right of practising in all Her Majesty's colonies and dependencies, subject to a power of the said colonies, under the Act of 1868, to enforce the registration of persons already registered under the Imperial Act. We all know that great disasters often depend on very inadequate or unlikely causes. But we could not have imagined, without reading carefully the correspondence on this subject, that