

Correspondence.

MEDICAL TEACHING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER:

In looking over a short extract from the Dean's Report of the Medical Faculty of Toronto University, some things specially attracted my attention—I was sorry, although not surprised to see them. (See Page 21 of Report of Governors up to June 30th, 1909.)

1. He speaks of some methods of teaching requiring improvement.

2. Of poor results having been shown for "*two years*" past, at the examinations of the University and of the Medical Council. He candidly admits "*that on the admission of our teachers students were not properly equipped*" for their examinations. The Dean also says that the students were not altogether to blame, and that "*better methods*" of teaching are a necessity "*in some departments.*" This is a candid and honorable admission to make.

3. It is further said, that the general feeling of the Faculty of Medicine is that far too much time is given to purely didactic teaching, leaving but little time for reading and physical exercise.

4. He also says that juniors occupy to a considerable extent and in some cases, "*in two or three teaching Departments*" positions of responsibility. "Experience tells us that it is difficult for such teachers to keep up enthusiasm in all branches." "*This, I think, should, as far as possible be avoided.*"

The writer of this letter would say here, that only men of *known* experience should occupy any positions whatever, where this is absolutely essential, to secure even a moderate degree of success.

It is not my special business to comment on these brief allusions to matters, in which changes or improvements are suggested, but, being much interested in sound medical education in every department, and in all our medical colleges, I think it both right and friendly to address you, an old and successful medical teacher, and, while not reflecting on anyone, to give you my thoughts regarding matters of great importance not only to the medical colleges, but to the entire profession, and, above all, to the public, who are chiefly concerned, as they should be, in