

fession in this country, may appear questionable, there remains in the whole character of the curriculum and examination a thoroughness that not only surpasses any test of fitness on this Continent, but may fairly compare with any system of examination in Europe, excepting of course the French mode of "Concours" for the appointment of professors.

With such evidence of care and deliberation displayed by the Educational Committee of this Council, and the notice by the Editor of the *Lancet* in the August number of this year, of the significant fact that neither at the examination held at Kingston, nor at the subsequent one held at Toronto, did a single student claim the privilege of being examined in the last four branches, viz., Materia Medica, Midwifery, Surgery, and Theory, and Practice of Medicine, by either eclectic or homœopathic examiners,—the time, I think, is not far distant when the several colleges of Great Britain will offer complete reciprocity to our Licentiates.

I have received numerous complaints from members of the profession in relation to the inoperativeness of the penal clause in our Medical Act, with requests that at the first meeting of Council I would bring the matter before you for consideration. I am aware that there is a diversity of opinion among the members as regards the expediency of going to the Legislature for any amendments, yet I should be fairly open to censure if I failed to advert to what I am well assured is a general and deeply rooted cause of dissatisfaction.

Dr. Strange has published, in the October number of the *Lancet*, a draft of a Bill to amend the present Act, so as to enable the Council to avoid the expence incurred under the present system of election, and for the purpose of making the penal clause more efficient. If the Council would appoint a committee to report upon it, and either take action or furnish sufficient reasons to the Profession for delay, the members would thus be absolved from the charge of supineness continually made.

As the Legislature is now in session, I consider the moment favorable for again bringing to your notice a subject that some years back, when the Council assembled in Guelph, Dr. Workman most ably commented upon. I refer to the increase of the crime of Criminal Abortion. That more stringent legislative