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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.

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LOCAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

We again feel impelled to urge upon our readers, the desirability of giving effect to the medical legislation of last session by the formation of Medical Associations. Wherever these associations do not already exist, the members of our profession owe it to themselves to immediately set about the formation of a society. Local Medical Associations are needed for several objects—all intimately connected with the advancement and best interests of the profession. For the cultivation and diffusion of science, for the purpose of friendly intercourse, and for facilitating the fixing of uniform or suitable charges, the Local Medical Association has become a necessity, and can now be made to have a legal existence. Knowing as we do, that many important towns and districts are yet without any association of the medical fraternity, we are compelled to declare that the real value of the medical legislation we have recently obtained in this Province has not been properly estimated, or else it would have been more speedily and generally acted upon. And naturally enough where the advantages of the Medical Act have been passed over, there we find the status of practitioners on the lowest level. A degrading competition takes the place of that true professional self respect which exacts a proper honorarium for the services of science and skill; and we find conduct only to be expected of hucksters and pedlars, taking the place of that gentlemanly deportment and consideration, which the members of a liberal profession owe to one another. As an instance, we state it on the information of a letter from one of the smaller towns of Ontario, where as yet there is no associa-

tion of the medical practitioners, that there the effort seems to be to get practice by reducing fees, and cutting under a rival's charges instead of the legitimate method of giving all possible study and attention to the cases in hand in the aim of doing one's duty. Such conduct is very reprehensible. Overcrowded as the profession may accidentally be in some of the towns of this country, there is no reason why the low arts of competing tradesmen should be adopted by professional men. There will be work enough for all to do, at properly remunerative prices, if those who overcrowd our cities and towns will only take the proper steps—say, either by removing to a locality where actual openings exist, or by patiently waiting their time in making a reputation in the place where they commence their career. Nothing can be more generally true than that the public, estimate medical men pretty much as they estimate themselves, and that the cheap man will come to be looked upon as an inferiorly qualified man, and therefore only to be employed in the most trivial cases. The tendency of a lowering competition in medical life, is to defeat the object of those who follow it.

The cultivation of a proper professional spirit, would seem to be greatly needed as a remedy for such a state of things. The true professional spirit can best of all be cultivated, we think, by the influence of medical associations, such as those contemplated and established in a few places under the Medical Act. Hence, we persistently advise their formation, and once more suggest that preliminary meetings should be held in the towns, counties and townships where such associations do not already exist.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL CASES.

We have recently had prominently brought before our notice the gross injustice inflicted on members of our profession, by the absence of any provision for compensating them for their medical evidence, expenses of travel and maintenance, as also for the loss of practice for the time they are kept waiting on the court, in many instances extending to a week. When the subject is brought before the Judges their remarks on the unfairness of the present condition of things is all that we