

## Medical Prodigies and the Status of Medicine.

*To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW :*

SIR,—There is one peculiarity of genius : it may be born anywhere. Small places—very small, indeed—have seen the birth of great men and been the centres of wonderful conceptions. John McCully, the Kootenay Cure, the Viavi treatment, Perry Davis' Pain-Killer, and Munyon's Cures, all had their homes in places far removed from the maddening crowd. So in a small Ontario town is to be found a medical prodigy whose professional card reads : "Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edinburgh ; Licentiate of Midwifery, Edinburgh. Special attention to midwifery and diseases of women." Born in an unpretentious village, as a man working in a carriage shop elbow to elbow with other men, like them earning his day's wage, he developed ideas. A college course, a trip to Edinburgh, a few years of country practice, and presto ! he is a specialist, a wonder worker. He claims to turn at the seventh month and secures comfort to the mother and a safe delivery at full term ; diagnoses dropsy of the womb and discovers in young girls uterine complaints. Is not the man a *rara avis* ? Yet to the medical mind there is in all this something very like empiricism, something supremely absurd. Do your Toronto physicians manipulate at the seventh month thus with like effect ? Do you Toronto men meet with many cases of hydrops uteri ? It appears curious that although this man can explain concisely, clearly, convincingly symptoms and disease without his patient wasting words, yet finds it necessary to examine very carefully applicants for life insurance. Does not this seem peculiar ? At a particular time our students found it very convenient to go to the Old Country for examination, and many of them went to Edinburgh. Why do not they go there now ? Perhaps some of these graduates will answer. They advertise the fact. It must indeed be a great honor. The credulous public gape in wonder, and rate the Edinburgh degree equal with that of the Royal College of Surgeons of London. Are they in any sense equal ? Was there not a trouble in matriculation or in passing the Ontario Council that in some way explains ? Was the Edinburgh degree at the time of the exodus equal even to our own ?

Marvel and all as this graduate is, he does not equal a rougher and coarser specimen, a doctor, too—not by examination, but