

change in existing laws or regulations, given at the final meeting before the term of the then Council shall expire, shall be published in an Ontario medical journal, and accompany every official notice of that election, whenever or however printed for the Councils or sent to the profession, that the profession may have full notice of them, and their opinions expressed by their votes at the election. There are many other matters the great tax on students for examinations—the needless number for the purposes of the public or profession—the degree which ex-President Williams states so explicitly the graduates receive no value for—the function of the various offices—the effort to make the Medical Council the exact reflex and power of the whole profession—to do away with all factors of antagonism, which have made the Medical Council appear more like a tyrant in the eyes of the profession than a righteous and powerful protector. In the carrying out of these briefly expressed and other much needed repairs to our legal machinery, all who believe it their duty to join hands with the Defence Association will be welcomed.

Do not regret, Mr. Editor, the space you have kindly given here. It goes far to prove your announcement to the profession, that the *ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL* though having business relations with the Medical Council—did not propose to have its policy interfered with by anyone, against the interests of the whole profession.

My best wishes are that your journal, having proved worthy of, will soon hold such a well-earned confidence, that it will prove to be the powerful factor in healing the differences between the profession and its chosen executive, the Medical Council, whose beneficial labours could not be more highly appreciated than they are by

Yours truly,
(Signed) J. E. WHITE.

BRAIN LESIONS AND MENTAL INTEGRITY.

To the Editor of *ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.*

MY DEAR SIR,—Dr. J. Ferguson, of this city, has indulged in a little friendly criticism of a paper read by me at the Annual Meeting of the Association of the Medical Officers of the Militia, held in this city last June.

My object in writing this is not to enter into a discussion of the localization theory of Ferrier, and of his school, but rather to show that the Doctor missed the aim of my paper altogether.

The examples were not given to produce arguments against the doctrines of these localizers, but to show how much brain lesion can exist with *mental integrity*.

Not a single argument was advanced in the examples to show that the injury was done to the motor areas, so-called, in the neighbourhood of Rolandic and Sylvian fissures.

The Ferrier devotees hold that the front sections of the hemispheres are centres of ideation and not of physical function. To refute that statement was the fulcrum idea of the paper. Mental operations are with them simply brain activity, and all mind action is only a resultant of molecular movement in nerve substances. The examples adduced were culled principally to show mental condition, after injury to the front parts of the cerebrum. Let me quote from my introduction: "In its life function the brain is the organ of the mind. Our relation with the external world and our immediate knowledge of it, are carried on and recognized through this mass of nerve substance. We can predicate the proportion of mental force by the mass, complexity and tone of this mental instrument. Notwithstanding the existence of these important functions which belong to the brain, and as a result of the necessity of its healthful condition to make manifest its psychic force, yet there is no organ of the body which can be lacerated with such impunity as the brain. It is astonishing how tumours can grow and impinge on its domain without producing much disturbance of activity: exostosis may even grow into its substance without being suspected, until after death by some other disease.

"Abscesses may form because of thromboses or emboli, and no functional or mental derangement ensues commensurate with the injury inflicted. It is surprising what pathological conditions may exist, or what traumatic injuries may be inflicted which, reasoning from analogy, would be supposed to prove fatal, and yet the victims of disease or of surgical lesion remain afterward good and useful citizens. It is not, however, my intention to discuss brain lesions in general and the results flow-