

MEDICAL COUNCIL EXAMINATIONS.

As the appointment of a Central Examining Board by the Ontario Medical Council is the most important and useful feature connected with that body, it becomes a matter of interest to consider the character of the examination held by this Board. It gives us much pleasure to bear testimony to the fact that the recent Council Examination was conducted in the most thorough and impartial manner. The primary (entirely oral) was thoroughly practical, and at the same time perfectly fair. The arrangements, under the management of the indefatigable Registrar, were very complete. The four examiners occupied the four corners of the Council Hall, and four candidates were examined at the same time, fifteen minutes being allowed for each subject. As the candidate finished at one table he passed on to the next. An improved feature of this year's final examination was an oral given to all, in addition to the written. The object was to make this as practical as possible, especially in medicine and surgery. Of course, an oral may be quite as unpractical as the written; but, in this instance, the examination was as practical in medicine and midwifery as it is possible to make it without taking the students to a hospital. It was, perhaps, not so practical in surgery. Although the oral is not popular with the students, still, there is no doubt, it is the best means of finding out exactly what the candidate knows in a practical way. The mere bookworm who has obtained some knowledge of his subject, but is unable to apply it with ordinary judgment, is at once discovered.

The urgent requirements in our medical schools at the present day are work in the laboratories, dissecting rooms, *post-mortem* rooms, systematic and continuous bedside teaching, as well as the ordinary clinical lectures, a complete system of appointing surgical dressers and clinical clerks, and compelling them to perform their duties properly, and keep a correct record of all their cases. The facilities for all these are at our command, but the difficulty is to make the students pay sufficient attention to these all-important matters. In the past some, even though deluged by oceans of advice, have sadly neglected them.

Some have worked in a half-hearted way, and others have improved all their opportunities of gaining practical knowledge. The last-named are undoubtedly the only ones fit to engage at once in actual practice, but at a purely written and unpractical examination they are frequently, if not generally, beaten by the book-worms. It will probably be generally admitted that our examinations were formerly very defective, as far as giving any encouragement to practical work is concerned, and it is at the same time well known that a vast improvement in this respect has taken place during the last few years.

It is only just to the Council to affirm that it has fully appreciated these facts, and for some years has honestly endeavoured to improve the character of its examinations; and the result is that the examination just completed has, taken altogether, been the most thorough and practical ever held in this country. The students, who are very quick to discern the signs of the times, have been forced to a more wise course in pursuing their studies, and, as a consequence, have done more and better work in their laboratories, dissecting rooms, and hospitals during the past winter than ever before, and we venture to hope that the result will be a smaller number of *vacancies* in the list of the "passed." We, of course, fully appreciate the value of reading, but simply insist that a man cannot acquire a proper knowledge of our profession, with all its details, from books alone.

Canadian doctors take great interest in politics, and are largely represented in the various Parliaments. There are six physicians in the Dominion Senate, and sixteen in the House of Commons, ten in the Local Parliament of Ontario, ten in Quebec, three in Nova Scotia, two in New Brunswick, and two in Manitoba. They are also largely represented in Municipal Councils.

Dr. Oldright, chairman, and Dr. Cassidy, a member of the Provincial Board of Health, attended the State Sanitary Convention held in Greenville, Michigan, in April.

Dr. P. H. Bryce, of Guelph, has been appointed Secretary to the Ontario Board of Health.