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EDITORIAL

THE ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

This association has a long and honorable history. Until within the past few years it was an independent organization and held a meeting annually, and met where it chose and fixed its own time of meeting. Its work was entirely voluntary, as a member of the profession was free to attend any meeting, or drop out for a year or more without losing his membership. The association was for the good of those who could attend, and was managed along lines of marked freedom. This method worked well, as under it the Ontario Medical Association prospered to a very gratifying degree.

But a change came, and we feel now, as we felt when that change was effected, that it was a retrograde movement. At the Hamilton meeting five years ago a report was adopted that the Ontario Medical Association should join with the Dominion Medical Association, in such a way that when the latter organization met in Ontario the former should forego its meeting for that year. The affiliation was completed at the Toronto meeting in 1910.

The effect of this union has been adverse to the Ontario Medical Association, and in more ways than one. In the first place, one must keep up continuous membership to belong to the Canadian Medical Association. In order to belong to the Ontario Medical Association he must pay his fee of \$2 each year he attends the meeting. But to belong to the Ontario Medical Association, through the Canadian Medical Association, he must pay \$5 a year. This has had an injurious influence over the membership. Many will not pay this fee for the years they do not attend; and, as this puts them off the list, they cease attending altogether. It may be said, however, that they receive the *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association*. But experience has proven that subscribers cannot be secured by any rule of compulsion, or vote of an association.