

to the Dominion Government, through the Honourable the Premier, Sir John Caldwell Abbott, and that a copy be also sent to all the medical journals in Canada.

A. F. ROGERS, M.D., *Pres.*

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### THE ADDRESS ON SURGERY AT THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

It is worthy of note that the address on Surgery at the late meeting of the British Medical Association was delivered by a colonial member, Dr. Hingston, of Montreal. This is the first time that any "colonist" has had that honor. The Americans have been represented by Professors Flint and Gross, and now the conservatism of a great British institution has become liberal enough to permit a Canadian to take the place of honor. We have read the address and can say, that as Canadians we may be proud of our representative. In Canada, Dr. Hingston has long been looked upon as an authority in the subject of Surgery, and from the manner in which he was received, and from the comments of the British medical journals, we may congratulate ourselves upon the choice having fallen upon so worthy and capable a man. He took advantage of the occasion to assure the meeting of the firm attachment of Canada to the parent state. "She glories," he said, "in your past, she is deeply interested in your future; your glory is her glory, your future is her future; and she is grateful for any thought of her in your councils, especially where science is concerned, and where the common good of mankind is the purpose." This is a loyal and beautiful sentiment, and it would be a "glorious" thing for Canada if a similar interest in our welfare could be aroused in the breast of the average Briton.

### Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—In an editorial of the August No. of the CANADA LANCET mention is made of the good which has been accomplished by the Medical Council of Ontario, in elevating the standard of medical education; an assertion which, I think, no

one conversant with the facts will attempt to deny or dispute. Reference is also made to the irritation and annoyance felt by some, respecting the penal clause, for non-payment of the annual assessment, and it is of the latter that I wish to make a few remarks. Having attained my membership in the College of Physicians and Surgeons by passing all the examination established under its curriculum—I believe it cannot be said that I am inimical to that institution. The special point which I wish to bring out is this, that non-resident members, under pain of having their names stricken off the register, are compelled to pay the annual assessment of \$2, the same as those residing in Ontario. Being residents of another country we partake of none of the benefits. When in August of last year I became aware of the penal clause, in the Amended Act, I wrote my friend Dr. John L. Bray, of Chatham, and under date of August 12th, he said: "It (the penal clause) may prove unfortunate in some cases, but it became a necessity to make some change in the law, as some \$6000, due the Council, in the shape of assessments, could not be collected. One thing, if a man should be struck off for this cause, he can easily be put on again by *paying up*, so that there is no hardship committed by it that can not be easily remedied."

Now, while this may be true, there is another phase of the question which seriously presents itself to my mind. Suppose my name be struck off the register for the non-payment of assessment; afterwards a change or amendment be made in the Medical Act of Ontario, enacting that only the names of such as are *then* on the register, shall be legally qualified practitioners, and subsequently I return to Ontario, and wish to resume practice, I would find myself legislated out of my profession, and unable to gain redress; I can conceive of such a condition being possible and working a great hardship. I would suggest as a preventative remedy that the Act be amended so that the names of all non-resident members of the College who neglect or refuse to pay the annual assessment be placed in a separate part of the register, so that should any change be made in the Medical Act, they will not be left out in the cold, and should they return to Ontario, not find themselves, like Othello, with their "occupation gone." It may be said that the