

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

To the Editors of THE MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—It is the custom in England to publish in some of the journals the claims, especially on the score of original work, of all candidates for election to the Royal Society; the latter being regarded as about the highest honor that can be conferred on a scientific man. So far as I know, this has never been the case as regards the Royal Society of Canada, though the fellows have been made aware of the status of candidates. With a view of initiating so good a custom as that prevailing in England, I furnished you with a list of my own papers last spring *after* my election to the Royal Society of Canada, so that any one might judge for himself of the merits of the case. The list was not published till a few weeks ago, and then without one word of explanation. After trying to make matters clear again, I found that the only notice in explanation of the appearance of the list is a meagre paragraph at the close of the last page of the December number of the JOURNAL, and which seems to imply that I might be a candidate, but certainly had not become a fellow; with, moreover, no very complimentary reference to the Royal Society. Since the Society is made up largely of the leading scientific men of the country, and has published a good many quarto volumes of proceedings, it would appear that it has at least some claim to respect. How many volumes of proceedings has the Canada Medical Association published? My election to the Royal Society was unsought by me, nor did I solicit a single vote; therefore, I the more appreciate the honor so distinguished a body has done me.

I have long been aware that editorial ways were peculiar; but that condition of the nerve centres which has led to such dislocations, isolations and mystifications, without any corresponding gain in differentiation or evolution, is something which it is past my knowledge of physiology to explain. However, I hope it does not betoken any serious impending loss of cerebral equipoise on either your part or mine, and I trust, gentlemen, that you will appreciate my efforts to reach a scientific solution even under such unfavorable circumstances.

Truly yours,

WESLEY MILLS.

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