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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications and reports solicited. Correspondents must accompany letters, if intended to be printed anonymously, with their proper signature, as a guarantee of good faith.

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POSTAGE ON THE MEDICAL TIMES.—The rate of postage on the Medical Times is Five Cents per quarter.

The following is from Dr. Parvin's address before the American Medical Editors' Association:—As Robert Southey well says in "The Doctor":—"Man is a dupable animal. Quacks in medicine, quacks in religion, quacks in politics know this, and act upon the knowledge. There is scarcely any one who may not, like a trout, be taken by tacking." A church dignitary once said, "*Populus vult decipi; et decipietur.*"

According to the latest official announcement, the following are the medical schools and hospitals in the Dominion of Canada from which certificates of professional education of candidates for the Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, will be received for the year commencing the 1st of August, 1873:—The University of Toronto; the University of Victoria College, Toronto; the University of McGill College, Montreal; the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston; the University of Laval, Quebec. It will be observed that the list does not include all the medical schools in operation in Canada.

A report reaches us from Toronto that Dr. Campbell has prepared his bill for the re-incorporation of the Homoeopathic Board, and is already canvassing for Parliamentary support for his measure. The energy and activity of Dr. Campbell are on all hands admitted, and no doubt he will make the best of his opportunities. But it is doubtful whether he will be able to command a majority of the House of Assembly, though it is thought quite likely that he may obtain a committee of inquiry which will examine into any allegation of unfairness on the part of the Medical Council. It is also understood, as we are informed, that the Provincial Government will range its power and influence on the side of the Medical Council, provided it can be shown that no act of unfairness has been committed towards the homoeopaths or the eclectics. It is held by the Government to be desirable to maintain the leading principles of the Medical Act and to keep the profession united. It follows, therefore, that Dr. Campbell will have to make out a strong case to get his proposition entertained.

The arrangements of the Medical Council of Ontario with respect to the appointment of certain members of the Council to the Examining Board, and the holding of the annual meeting and the examinations consecutively have been

made with a view to economy. By the new arrangement, it is supposed, a saving of \$500 may be effected. At its June meeting the Council laid great stress on the necessity for economy by the Examining Board, and here we have an instance. Economically managed, as the affairs of the Council ought to be, there is no reason why its revenues should not prove sufficient without having to resort to an assessment of the profession, as proposed in one of the clauses of the new bill. It is well known that the proposition of an assessment proved fatal to the Medical Bill last session, and the same feeling is to be apprehended again. Last year letters poured in from the medical constituents of members, urging them to oppose this part of the bill. If the Council therefore can render itself independent of any such special legislation its continued existence and popularity will be assured.

A correspondent, "Viator Medicus," deals with the question of female physicians in a way to command attention. We should be reluctant to specify anything like the weighty charge he prefers against the sex, and might even doubt the justice or foundation for such a condemnation were it not that he speaks from contact and experience in the United States, and were it not also notorious that certain Russian and American female medical students at European schools have been loose in their behaviour. The Russian ladies, indeed, have been expelled from Zurich, and refused admission to the schools at Prague, Strasburg and Giessen, and have been charged with leading dissolute lives. One might reasonably fear that such characters would become insidious and dangerous abortionists, and that the sense of shame lost in their student days, the sense of responsibility and moral duty would be lost also in the days of practice. But while the conduct of these females has been such as to bring discredit on the cause of female medical education, it must be said that there are many ladies—very many, we would hope—against whom no breath of scandal could possibly be raised. However, our correspondent has pointed out a danger which must be taken into account, and which we trust will be well weighed ere the Canadian schools are thrown open to female students. But for other reasons than this particular risk, we should wish our Canadian sisters not to get infatuated with the notion of entering the medical profession.

It is a noticeable fact that nearly all the candidates at the examinations for admission to the army and naval medical services of Great Britain are graduates of the Dublin medical schools. Formerly the great medical school at Edinburgh used to furnish a large quota; but now, according to the remarks of Professor Turner, delivered in an address to the graduates, private practice offers a more profitable and inviting field for Scotch graduates. The national medical services have been rendered very unpopular by the economical retrenchments effected by the present ministry. The withdrawal of the allowance to army medical officers in lieu of forage has caused great dissatis-

faction. Professor Turner referred to the following causes which had tended to diminish the attractiveness of the public medical services:—the moderate scale of payment, the slowness of promotion, the routine character of the life in times of peace, the inadequacy of the retiring pension after years spent on foreign service, and with the health broken perhaps by a residence in unhealthy climates, and the doubt which unfortunately prevails lest privileges granted one year will not, after the lapse of a few years, be again withdrawn. Professor Turner concluded his address as follows:—"Though in more stirring and warlike times, when the pulse of the whole nation throbs at the recital of deeds of daring, when the love of adventure—which acts as a powerful incentive to so many men—is aroused, and when opportunities for obtaining personal distinction can be obtained, the services may regain their popularity with our students, it must be confessed that in these days of peace, when men look at things in a calmer and more practical way, and are disposed to follow that line of life which is likely to prove most lucrative, the inducements to enter the services are not so powerful as to outweigh those which are offered by even a moderate amount of success in private practice."

DR. O. B. RADCLIFFE ON "DELUSION."

By an oversight Dr. O. B. Radcliffe's name has been omitted from the heading of the article on Delusion on page 106 in this issue. It may also be noted in this place that the article in question is not only worthy the attention of physicians, but of clergymen and all men of intelligence and position in society. To be productive of a proper amount of benefit, indeed, Dr. Radcliffe's views require to be widely known.

**PROSTITUTION CONTROLLED BY
SANITARY LAW.**

Many European cities have attempted to restrain and regulate this evil, which law can nowhere suppress. Their success has been but partial; never quite satisfactory, yet on the whole such as warranted the continuance of the system of public regulation. Recently, it has been tried in England, under the "Contagious Diseases Act," which applies only to the population of certain naval and military towns. It would appear, from the British medical journals, that the effect of the law in diminishing venereal diseases in the public service has been most gratifying, and great efforts are now making, with a general but not universal support from the medical profession, to extend the provisions of this act to the whole English population.

It is a little remarkable that a law of this character should prove to be better adapted to English than to Continental communities, and even more surprising that it should be found to work still better in an American city. Yet this seems to be the case. The city of St. Louis, with a present population of about 400,000, has been trying this experiment for several years. It seems to have been adopted by the medical profession acting through the Board of Health, and by the police, as the best available means of diminishing