

The Dominion Medical Journal,

A MONTHLY RECORD OF
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE.

EDITORS:

UZZIEL OGDEN, M.D.,
J. WIDMER ROLPH, M.D., L.R.C.P., LOND.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1870.

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL EXAMINATIONS.

We give elsewhere some additional resolutions passed by the Executive Committee of the Medical Council, at their last meeting. In their mode of conducting the written examinations, they have followed somewhat the model of the Royal College of Surgeons, England; each candidate submitting his curriculum to the Registrar some days before the Board meets, and on its being approved receiving a number which is to designate him throughout the examination. Each examiner is to prepare the paper upon his own subject, and the answers are to be afterwards marked by him, according to a graduated scale of merit, and finally submitted to the whole Board for approval or rejection.

So far there is nothing to object to, and a fairer guarantee of impartiality could scarcely be given to the students; but in the oral examinations, the committee have indeed set the examiners a herculean task, as will be seen when we remember that by the printed regulations of the council, only one day, Saturday, April 9th, is allowed for oral examinations.

There are fifteen subjects on which the candidate (no matter how he may wish to register), will be examined by written papers; but for the sake of illustration, we will suppose that by uniting the different sub-divisions of anatomy, surgery, &c., they may be reduced to ten. We will also suppose that sixty students will present themselves for examination, which is quite within the mark, and that the examiners will sit for ten hours that day, which is quite beyond the mark.

Now, if each of our readers makes a very simple arithmetical calculation, he will find that every candidate will have to enter the room, sit down, hear and answer whatever questions any members of the Board may think proper to propound, and retire, all in the space of one minute.

This being manifestly impossible, the difficulty can only be got over by lengthening the examination

and thus breaking into the next week, or confining the oral to those candidates whose written examination has been unsatisfactory.

We await with interest some action of the committee on this head, for, undoubtedly as things stand at present, the Board are bound to follow out the printed programme, which limits them as to time, and implies, if it does not command, that each candidate shall undergo a *visd voce* examination.

For the sake of the students, we hope the committee will reconsider their later resolutions, and allow each candidate to be orally examined before neither more, nor less, than two examiners.

Any imaginary protection that a student might gain by appearing before the whole Board, would be more than counterbalanced by the awe so august a body would inspire.

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT.

"Fanaticism," says Mackintosh, "is the most incurable of all mental diseases, because in all its forms it is distinguished by a sort of mad contempt for experience, which alone can correct the errors of practical judgment."

When we examine the records of British hospital management for the last fifty years, and observe the acrimony of the struggle sustained by the London medical journals for a period of twenty years, before the most glaring abuses could be reformed, it would seem as if hospital authorities had tried to exemplify the truth of Sir James' aphorism, and when we refer to the proceedings of our own Toronto Hospital Trustees, for the last twenty years, it would seem as if they too were often actuated by a sort of "mad contempt for experience," or they never would have perpetrated the mistakes or sanctioned and vindicated the abuses, which we find recorded as their acts in former years. But we expect better things from the present Trustees, and hope they will not allow themselves to be led into wrong doing by any man who cannot raise himself above the petty vindictiveness of the faro-bank, or sectarian jealousy, and we trust they will display that intelligence and independence of thought and action which have characterized them in other walks of life.

The position of Hospital Trustee is a most trying one, and few men have the firmness or magnanimity to carry them through it, uninfluenced and undisturbed by the many little personal, sectional, national, or sectarian prejudices and proclivities by which they are beset.

With reference to our own Hospital, we believe a mistake was made when the staff was increased to