

THE RIGHTS OF THE PROFESSION.

To the Editor of the B. A. Journal.

SIR,—Now that a reform government has come into power, it is to be hoped that further attempts may be made by the medical gentlemen of Upper Canada to demand from it the lawful rights so long withheld from us. It is most deplorable to think that for party prejudices and electioneering purposes, bills authorizing the institution of charlatanical systems should have been pushed through the House to the exclusion of one demanding common rights granted in all other civilized countries to the orthodox system of over two thousand years standing. The medical profession, especially in the rural districts of Canada, is being more and more encroached upon by empiricism every year. Uneducated, illiterate men, on the strength of this new eclectic bill, have opened offices and hung out their shingles as qualified practitioners. Of the saccharine system, scientifically termed Homœopathy, which has also been legally instituted, we will say but little and think less; the eyes of the most unsophisticated are fast being opened to its fallacy, and the patience of its infatuated adherents is being sorely tried by the ridicule which is now being cast upon their tiny globules. The Hygienic, the Electro-magnetic, and other systems, we can find no great fault with: they do but individualize our own plans of treatment of many diseases. We can but request the promulgators of them, as they value their souls, to adhere to the truths in their advertisements, and not expose themselves by making out too small a mortality among their cases. A year's practice on one of our South American stations would be a pretty good test for their capabilities, especially for that infallible gentleman who lectured lately in Ottawa.

It is not so much at the institution of these comparatively novel systems that we complain,—their own ropes will hang them in time,—but it is at the inconsistencies which are permitted to creep into our own profession. We would ask, is it fair that young uneducated men should be allowed to pass a merely nominal examination more for the sake of their fees and party spite than anything else, and be permitted to enter upon their professional careers, backed by numerous friends and connections, who feel of course bound to help them by their patronage. At least thirty young men are thus annually launched upon the country from one of our *Medical?* schools. It is unfair towards those of us who have spent an enormous sum of money upon our professional education at the hospitals and schools of medicine in England, &c., have studied long and assiduously at one of the orthodox schools of medicine in Canada, and obtained the lawful diploma.

To prove how little the authorities are awake to our interests, I could point out many who are practising without any license from the government whatever, and many more who have settled in business having been absent at their studies scarcely two years. A young man who lived in my service for a little over a year, taking care of my horses, &c., has now had the audacity to go off into a distant part of the country and open an office on his own account, where he is now practising with impunity. He has never studied a day, and can scarcely write his name.

We would ask again, ought those Yankee druggists to be allowed to make periodical tours through our country, and with their well known sophistry and