

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The editor does not endorse nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.*

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**B**OTH the ruling authorities and the professors generally of the Medical Colleges in Canada have hitherto displayed chronic indifference with regard to the creation of a permanent medical literature for this country. At present they show no intention to change their minds.

The medical institutions of this country, about ten in number, are either faculties of Universities, or like Trinity Medical College at Toronto, in direct affiliation with Universities. Nevertheless, neither their University Associations, nor the time honored standing of medicine as a learned profession, nor yet personal ambition, has incited the professors to become authors of medical books. The college authorities on their part have been content to forego literary standing for their institutions to the extent even of depending entirely on foreign authors for the text books and books of reference needed in the courses of medical study. This admission of inferiority deserves animadversion. *Sera nunquam est ad bonos mores via.* Hopes of reformation are to be entertained.

I make no comparisons with the older countries of Europe, but cross the International boundary into the United States which, it will be observed is a new country like Canada, where a striking contrast is exhibited between the vigor and progress of our neighbor in the creation of a national medical literature, and the inertia and backwardness under comment. Actuated by a praiseworthy ambition, numerous professors of American medical colleges, likewise many physicians on the staff of large hospitals although not professors in colleges, have written books in great numbers on all the various branches of medicine, which have extensively displaced European text books for college use, as well as in the libraries of physicians in the United States. They have done the same in Canada.

American medical authors have attained a position of equality with those of Europe in the medical world of letters. The first move yet remains to be taken by Canadian professors of medicine to acquire similar standing. The general catalogues of medical books are in evidence. According to custom the annual announcements of the Canadian Medical Colleges contain lists of the text books and books of reference recommended to the students for study and adopted by the professors as authorities. Not a work is mentioned in those lists that I can discover written by a professor in any of those colleges. The majority of the books are of American production. The balance are European. Such abject dependence on foreign authors for college text books is indefensible