

Ontario Medical Journal.

SENT FREE TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE PROFESSION IN ONTARIO
AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial Medical Associations will oblige by forwarding reports of the proceedings of their Associations.

Editorials.

CORRESPONDENCE *RE* MEDICAL COUNCIL.

Last month a letter was received by us for insertion in the JOURNAL from Dr. Armour, of St. Catharines. It came too late for that issue, and explanation was made to him of this fact, with the promise that it would be inserted in October. Much to our surprise the same letter came out in a few days in the columns of the *Empire*, and on the 7th inst. in the *Mail*. There can only be one reason for an action of this kind, and that is, that Dr. Armour did not wish to reach the medical profession at all directly. The members of the Medical Defence Association on our invitation agreed through their recognized secretary to put their arguments before the public through the medical press. The failure of at least this one adherent shows plainly that it is not the medical men he wishes to influence, but the general public, and through them the members of the Legislature, knowing full well that the Council's side of the question was only submitted as it was wished that they should submit theirs. Hence the general public would only get a very one-sided view of the subject, and would be unfair judges. With regard to the letter itself, we only intend dealing with the portion which refers to the Council, leaving it to Dr. Rogers who has been particularly

assailed to make a plain and able defence of himself, which we truly know from data in our possession that he can easily do, showing that his actions were absolutely fair, and all his expenditure wholly necessary.

Dr. Armour, in his references to the Council and its actions, shows that he is sadly deficient in knowledge of parliamentary acts and the Medical Act in particular. The Legislature only required a new election in 1894, and as long as it is held in that year the bidding of that body is fulfilled both in the letter and spirit of the amendment. If the "specious pretext," which he claims was the cause of the allowance, was actually that cause, it still holds good as the same state of affairs remains. The Discipline Committee, which will meet in December, has before it a number of important cases which are to be dealt with and reported at the next session. We are afraid that cases will still be cropping up to be judged, though it is to be devoutly wished that it were not so, and if as the doctor thinks, this was the *raison d'etre*, he would have the Council an *ad infinitum* one instead of an elective board. He evidently has forgotten that a member of this Committee still remains a member till the report is before the Council, even if he has ceased to be a member of the Council itself.

The time for holding an election is always fixed by the retiring Council by by-law, and is neither a matter of practice nor custom, but simply a time which is thought will best suit the medical pro-