

a very creditable style. The illustrations are good, the type large and clear.

A HANDBOOK OF VACCINATION. By EDWARD C. SEATON, M. D., Medical Inspector to the Privy Council.

We are indebted to the firm of Adam, Stevenson, & Co., of this city, for a volume of this work. This is the only work which has ever been published on the subject of Vaccination, worthy of special attention. The author carefully and candidly considers the whole subject, and now that the subject of Vaccination is assuming so much importance from the opposition which is being exerted against it, especially in England, this treatise becomes an invaluable authority upon the subject.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Dominion Medical Journal.

MR. EDITOR:—My idea of a gentleman is, that he may attack any system or doctrine which he believes to be false and dangerous, but must avoid personal or individual abuse. In both points Dr. Fields thinks differently. I therefore cannot reply to his letter in your last issue.

Yours, HORATIO YATES.

Kingston, October 4th, 1869.

The Medical Act. Was it required?

To the Editor of the Dominion Medical Journal.

SIR:—Assuredly no man having the welfare of the profession at heart will deny that some change in the late act was required.

How could the medical degree command respect from the public, when we had eight Institutions in Ontario alone, with power to send out Licentiates, all standing on an equality before the country, and in the eye of the law; each institution interested in sending out the largest number of graduates, and no uniformity whatever existing between their examinations or requirements?

What wonder that the standing should degenerate, and public respect and confidence be lost?

Will it not be better in the end for the schools, as well as the profession, that a uniform standard of examination shall be adopted? Will not the profession much sooner command that respect which of late years it has lost?

The evidence of all who have dispassionately considered the matter goes to show that without a Central Examining Board, any hope of elevating the profession to that proud position it should occupy is utterly futile. The strongest argument I ever

heard advanced in favor of a Central Board, and the most forcible exposure of the evils of a number of licensing bodies, were contained in the able address by Dr. Davis, the American delegate to our recent Canada Medical Association. But let us take additional evidence from the proceedings of the British Medical Council for July, 1869. There we find recorded a memorial, signed by 2,500 members of the profession, in which this clause appears: "It is held to be necessary to substitute for the present system of examination, and for the many forms of license to practice now granted, one high and uniform standard of examination, and one legal qualification," &c., &c.

Again, in the report of the Committee on Medical Education, presented to the British Medical Council on the 10th of July, and adopted, we find the following:

"One of the great evils at the present moment is the inequality of the examinations for the license. This inequality of the test of efficiency is the more unfortunate, as every license confers an equality in the right to practice everywhere."—[Just as the eclectic, homeopathic, or orthodox license did in Ontario.]—"The easy examination of one licensing body tends to depress the standard of examinations in all the rest. Visitations of examiners doubtless partly remedy this state of things; but to completely remove it, a bolder course is necessary. The time has now arrived when, leaving to the universities and corporations full liberty to deal as they please with their honorary distinctions and degrees, the Medical Council should endeavour to effect such combinations of the licensing bodies as may form a conjoint examining board for each division of the kingdom, before which every person who desired a license to practice should be examined on all subjects. We feel assured that the examinations for license will never be made satisfactory without it, and, therefore, it is for the public good to enforce it without delay."

It appears, therefore, that the voice of the profession, in all free countries, is in favor of one central licensing body, with one uniform standard of examination; and if you will allow me, I will try to show, at another time, that our Ontario Medical Act, while it secures this, and gives to the profession a voice in the management of its own affairs—long sought, in vain, in Britain and across the lakes—is likewise so well calculated to elevate the standing of the profession, and rid the country, in a few years, of ignorant and incompetent pretenders, that we can well afford to accept it with the few imperfections and obnoxious clauses forced into it against the wish and will of its promoters, and that in a very short time it will be found to accomplish far more for the profession and the public than if it had not contained the clauses objected to.

I remain, Sir, OBSERVER.