

opathists, or less than half of the whole Council to represent the whole regular profession, leaving fourteen entirely independent of the general profession, and over whom they have not the slightest control.

These fourteen, however, have equal rights and powers with the territorial representatives, and coolly sit and vote out our money as they may see fit, while those who contribute this money are absolutely powerless to restrain them or bring them to account, which is taxation without representation, a procedure to which no civilized people will submit at the present day, unless the profession in Ontario prove to be an exception. There is no doubt that much of the reckless expenditure by the Council in the past is due to this fact. And this is the secret of most of the discontent which at present exists, and which is so rapidly extending itself to all parts of the province. The remedy is not far to seek. If the colleges desire representation on the Council, let them pay their own representatives, and not throw them on the charity of the regular profession. Let the homœopaths do likewise. And as all the funds of the Council are practically contributed by the regular profession, the expenditure of these funds should be entirely in the hands of the territorial representatives, who shall render an account to their constituents for the proper expenditure of the same.

If these fair and just concessions were granted it would remove the objections which at present exist to the annual tax, and obviate the necessity of retaining clause 41A in the Medical Act, and have the effect of tending to the production of harmony among the different elements of discord. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the space so kindly granted.

I remain, very respectfully yours,

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## THE DOCTORS' DEGREE, ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND HONOUR FAST DISAPPEARING.

EDITOR DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY:

SIR,—Having for many years noticed that the title of "doctor" has been given to those who are not of the learned professions—divinity, law, medicine—and that especially during the last few years, said title is being given to those persons whose diplomas or certificates do not contain any evidence that their holders are given the doctorate. I have studied the best authorities on the subject and find that in very ancient times the word was, according to its etymological derivation, the same as *teacher*. In Horace's Satires (Book 1) we find: "Ut pueris olim dant crustula blandi *Doctores*, elementa velint ut discere prima"—from this we learn the correctness of the statement—*Doctus* was an appellation given to *Catullus* the Roman poet, this term is equivalent to expression "knowing and accomplished," or to "cunning," as "cunning in music or mathematics," of old English usage. In the 12th century distinguished scholars, not engaged in teaching, were given the title, and expressions intended to characterize their excellency or gifts, were added, thus: "Thomas Aquinas, Doctor Angelicus;" "Roger Bacon, Doctor Mirabilis," etc. Thus we find the word was long used as a common expression for teacher before it became recognized as a distinction for a degree or rank in the learned hierarchy to which only the united body of teachers could advance or promote the candidate.

The first reception of doctors took place at Bologna (the seat of the first legally incorporated university) in the 12th century, and in 1145 at the University of Paris. "The title of doctor," says a good authority (Mitchell's Encyclopædia, London, 1838), "seems to have been created in the 12th century, instead of