

ing English literature, for example, they spend their time committing the names of authors from Chaucer to Tennyson, and conclude the task with a headache. That is what is called a knowledge of English literature. The teachers are not to blame for this, it is the system. Are the health and best years of men and women to be sacrificed on the altar of folly in this reckless way? "Luke's iron crown and Damians' bed of steel" were tortures, but they were administered in half-civilized days, when human life and happiness were little thought of. Should we to-day consign noble men and women to life-long misery by a pernicious system which robs them of health and happiness when young, and consigns them to pauperism when they grow too old to learn any more and fit to follow no other occupation? We hope not. We trust there is a brighter future and that it is close at hand.

APOLOGY.

A letter sent to us by Drs. Preager and Wade, of British Columbia, appeared in our last issue, as matter sent by our Associate Editor in that Province. It was a mistake which inadvertently occurred, and demands a strong apology from us to the Council of British Columbia, which we hereby tender. Our regrets at such an occurrence are sincere, and to avoid all further trouble we will send all communications to Dr. McGuigan to be revised.

R. B. O.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—In your last issue, which is just to hand to-day, I notice a letter under the British Columbia column, signed by Drs. Preager and Wade. I am quite sure the substance of the introductory part was not dictated or written by Dr. McGuigan, although it would lead your readers to think so, as he is Associate Editor for this Province. I am quite certain, in the first place, Dr. McGuigan would not associate his name in the way your article would lead one to believe, and in the second place, it contains so many statements at variance with the facts that I am certain he would not endorse nor be a party to such misrepresentations. I have already answered Drs. Preager and Wade

in the *Practitioner*, and if it were not for taking up too much of your valuable space, I would show the ridiculous position these men take in endeavouring to advertise themselves. The members of the Medical Council know well what your correspondents are driving at, and Dr. McGuigan, as well as the other members of the Council, consider it nothing more or less than a "tempest in a teapot." I might say, for the information of your readers, it is only the work of a few disgruntled and disappointed men, who imagine that I am the Medical Council, and will try their utmost to find fault with my work, owing to the position I hold, as Registrar and Secretary of that body.

In addition to what I have written on this subject, the statement made, in your introductory remarks, that I issued a list of candidates to the electors is false. The statement also that I failed to carry out the Act, in reference to the list of those entitled to vote, is not according to the statute, and is on a par with many of the statements of your correspondents. The portion of the Act bearing on this subject reads as follows:

Section 16, Consolidated Medical Act of British Columbia: "The Registrar of the Council shall, on the second Monday of the month of April, in which the election may be held, make out an alphabetical list or register of the medical practitioners who are entitled to vote at the election, then about to be held, and such register may be examined at all reasonable times."

Surely this is clear enough, but your informant would endeavour to twist and contort the above clause so as to read that I, as Registrar, should have *sent* out a *list*, and he furthermore states that, on these grounds, the election could be upset, were anyone disposed to bring the matter before the courts. Any person who would interpret the law in the way your informants would desire, certainly in face of what I have said and quoted, would have a very poor case indeed. The law is quite clear on this point, and I might say also the law was carried out by me to the very letter. The list was made out and was examined by several practitioners in my office. No matter how desirous your correspondents are to upset the recent medical elections, they will require something more than such statements as they have already made, to do so. They can claim an attempt, at least, so far, by endeavoring