

30 months' pupilage, managed to teach in Provincial High Schools 13 months, spend some time in the civil service in Ottawa, and teach night school while in Toronto. Another licentiate of '86, who neither possessed nor had access to final books till after Jan. 1st, 1886, passed the final examination in April, with honors, in four or five subjects. Several men engaged in teaching school from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m., every day but Saturdays, who do not neglect their schools and accompanying night exercises, pass easily in three and a half years, *i.e.*, four sessions of six months each, which, from the very nature of things, they cannot possibly attend. It may be said that it is no concern of the Council, where a man obtains his information or how long it takes him to get it; but surely it should take average men longer than two and a half years to acquire information enough in medicine and surgery, to have permission to tamper with men's lives.

In the second place, the final examination is altogether unpractical. Candidates are not asked to diagnose cases in medicine or surgery. Skill in palpation, auscultation or percussion is not looked for. No operation on a cadaver or practical device in minor surgery is expected. Physical skill is ignored. Hospital work is useless to candidates at the Council's final, and hence is neglected.

If I dared to trespass further on your valuable space, I could give instances of blunders made in the hospital theatres and the dispensaries by some of our best men; and when such is the case, what would likely happen in the practice of those who neglect their opportunities for experience?

Yours, etc.,

G. R. CRUICKSHANK.

## MEDICAL REGISTRATION IN ONTARIO.

To the Editor of THE CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—One of the important question, if not the most important, that will engage the attention of the Medical Council at its next meeting, will be that of registration of English practitioners. Hitherto the only requisite has been the payment of the registration fee. But now, it is proposed to change all that, and compel all applicants for registration to undergo the examinations of the Council.

It is instructive, in view of this proposed

change, to contrast the action of the profession in the United Kingdom, with the proposals of the Ontario Council. And in order to do this I may give a summary of the provisions of the recent Medical Act which comes into force next June, in so far as they affect colonial practitioners.

Under this Act, the right of registration in the old country, which Colonial Universities and qualifying boards have all along claimed as due to their standard of medical graduation, is granted on the following conditions:

(1) "That the applicant holds some medical diploma or diplomas granted to him in a British possession to which this act applies, and that he is by law entitled to practice medicine, surgery and midwifery in such British possession. Then, on application to the registrar of the General Council, and on payment of a fee not exceeding five pounds, he shall be entitled, *without examination* in the United Kingdom, to registration as a colonial practitioner.

(2) "That the diploma or diplomas was or were granted to him at a time when he was not domiciled in the United Kingdom, or in the course of a period of not less than five years, during the whole of which he resided out of the United Kingdom."

The condition "in a British possession to which this act applies" is defined in the Act, as being a colony where equal privileges are granted to English practitioners. In view of this concession on the part of the home authorities it is difficult to find a reason for the proposed action of the Ontario Council. It has been suggested that the principal reason for passing this regulation is the fact that many students of medicine, in the different parts of Canada, avoid the examinations of the Council by going to the old country; and on their return, claim registration in virtue of their British qualifications, with consequent loss of fees to the qualifying body here. But there are higher considerations than fees. Surely the "National Policy" has not extended to the practice of medicine. Are the ailments of the Canadian public to be "protected" as against the skill of an English practitioner, in favor of those who have paid the fees of the Medical Council? If so, when the public finds this out, short work will be made of the privileges of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

It certainly cannot be argued that the condi-