

Correspondence.

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To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW.

SIR,—As the entire government of the profession is confided to the Executive Committee for fifty-one out of the fifty-two weeks of the year, it will, I think, be generally conceded that this is the most important committee appointed by the Medical Council, and that every practitioner in the Province should be thoroughly well informed of its *personnel*, its powers and its actions. Legally, it consists of three appointed and two *ex-officio* members. In defiance, however, of its own by-law to that effect, the Council, by usage, has limited the membership to three, viz., the President and Vice-President of the Council, who belong to it *ex-officio*, and the Head Centre of the homœopathic wing of the Inner Circle, who, whether otherwise in office or not, has for a number of years past enjoyed the unique privilege of forming one of this peculiarly constituted and practically irresponsible triarchy. To understand the true inwardness of this arrangement, it must be remembered that, by the operation of the "Machine," no territorial representative who is open to even the suspicion of being troubled with any special sense of loyalty to the profession can, by any possibility, win access to either the president's or vice-president's chair. It is, as I have already explained, settled in conclave who shall fill these offices, and their so-called election in Council is merely an empty farce.

In fact, the Council's system, or rather the Inner Circle's system, of rotating the presidency among its different sections, and of giving it, in turn, to each individual of his section, provided he is a member of the Inner Circle, may be regarded as the very front and origin of all the Council mismanagement of which we have to complain. At the opening of last session (*Vide* Report of Proceedings, 1896-97) I tried to express my strong sense of the viciousness and impolicy of that system. It is worked so as to offer a premium—or rather, what some are weak enough to regard as a premium—to territorial representatives for disloyalty to the interests they have been elected to serve. True, the position of President, as thus conferred, is void of honor or repute in the esteem of all right-minded men, yet it has a certain money or commercial value, since it carries with it a possible free lithograph in one or other of the medical journals or public prints, and also a per-