

Correspondence.

MEDICAL MEN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN PRACTITIONER AND REVIEW :

SIR,—It appears to me an anomalous absurdity that while our colleges, the older of which secured their charters from Great Britain, may license to practise within the boundary of the Province in which they are situate, the special right is preserved the home institutions to grant degrees permitting to practise in Great Britain *and her colonies*. British Columbia contested that right but her objection was overruled by the courts. We readily admit that the British practitioner, as we have seen him and known him here, is a fair sample of the gentleman physician; still, knowing as we do that their colleges have not had a uniform high standard, that some of our students who could not even present themselves for examination, and others that had been plucked in this country readily passed notably in Edinburgh, we are well satisfied that our Ontario examinations, especially that by the Medical Council, is quite equal to some of those at home granting enlarged powers. If this is so, why should our graduates serving with the troops in South Africa be restricted in very large degree to field service? Are our colleges and our representatives doing their whole duty in allowing this injustice to be perpetuated? Would not a little sound reason remove this evidence of British prejudice and ignorance? This war presents opportunities for surgeons which should not be overlooked. We owe it to ourselves, our patients, our country, that we should reap what benefit can be derived, yet it appears that the young fellows that have gone are there in a degree on sufferance and under a ban. At the outbreak of this war over five hundred of our medical men volunteered. Some were on the army list, yet they were refused. At the same time the British War Office was advertising for civilian medical volunteers, many of whom were accepted and sent. We have, say, 2,600 men now on service in Africa, and, say, one hundred wounded lying in the hospitals at Modder River, Capetown, and elsewhere, and one and all of these are dependent on the kind offices of utter strangers, as far as medical relief is concerned. The Canadian Tommy Atkins is not allowed ministration by Canadian physicians without the burlesque of an English degree. Tommy has shown his pluck. The British public, the press, even old Cronje readily admit that, but he is still to be treated as "the poor beggar colonial." It is admitted that our surgeons in the field and on field duty have