

CORRESPONDENCE

DR. MCKENZIE'S EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of the Manitoba and West Canada Lancet.

My Dear Sir,—In the Manitoba and West Canada Lancet for May, 1897, you make some strictures upon my professional conduct in visiting the west with a view to practice, in reference to which I would like the privilege of writing a few lines.

Allow me at once to admit that I am not registered to practice anywhere outside of Ontario. The card, however, to which you refer was sent only to practitioners, who certainly know whether or not they want advice and assistance in the management of unusual cases which are seen but seldom in general practice, and in the treatment of which special qualifications and facilities are required. The cases which seek the advice of the orthopedic surgeon are of such comparative rarity that his practice necessarily extends over a wide geographical area. In order to obtain the best results, many of these cases demand treatment extending over a lengthened period. Operative attention may be the only active interference demanded at first, but careful supervision may be necessary for years subsequently in order to prevent relapse. In the interest of such patients upon whom I have operated in Toronto, and whom it was important that I should see again, I have found no plan so satisfactory as that which I have adopted. Some of the patients belong to families who could neither well afford to remain away from home for many months, nor the expense of returning for much-needed further attention. To see and advise a number of such cases while in the west is much more economical and satisfactory than to necessitate their coming back individually.

As the pith of your editorial comments in this matter, however, is the reference to advertising, I may say that no appeal was to be made public, and that, in send-

ing a private card or note to each practising physician, no injustice, in my opinion, was done to either the profession or the public. During my first two or three years in orthopedic practice I kept a card as is now used by some of the leading members of the profession; but for five years I have not employed even a card, and have constantly sought to avoid everything that seemed liable to come between the practitioner and his patient.

Permit me further to add that the wording of four editorial statement, as based upon the note sent you, does me some injustice. Reference to my note will remind you that it does not state that I "paid a professional visit to the towns along the lines of railway in Manitoba." Nor does it state that I "was so largely consulted."

Recognizing, Mr. Editor, the influence and work of the public journal, and admitting the necessity for constant watchfulness, and the consequent responsibility and arduous duties of its editor, and thanking you for the opportunity thus afforded to set myself right with you and your readers, I am,

Yours very truly,

B. E. MCKENZIE.

Toronto, July 5, 1897.

LETTER FROM DR. PATTERSON.

Dear Sir,—I read with considerable interest your article upon the Victorian Order of Nurses, but I fear you placed it in print without due consideration, as the tenor of it is at direct variance with the large, generous heart I know you possess.

As to there being only one dissident at the meeting of city physicians on May the 26th, I think you are not absolutely correct. I know I was the only one who openly expressed my advocacy of the scheme, but there were others who gave no expression of opinion. You cannot, in justice claim them as in favor of the resolution and against the Victorian Order.

The members of this Order are to be fully qualified nurses, and that alone; not