

Correspondence.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO DR.
JAMES R. DICKSON.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—I beg of you a space in your columns for a report of a complimentary dinner given to Dr. Dickson, in the Town Hall, Paris, on the 3rd ult. Dr. Dickson is the oldest practitioner of this town and vicinity, and from the fact that he has been confined to his office for the past two years, an amount of sympathy was awakened which manifested itself in a complimentary dinner, which I believe is without a parallel in this part of Canada. The doctor's confinement was due to rupture of the tendon of the recti muscles, just above the knee, and I hope a short account of his case which he has been kind enough to hand me, as well as the address which was presented to him, and a few other items relating to the dinner, will not be without interest to your readers. The following is Dr. Dickson's account of his case:—"On the 4th of March, 1875, whilst descending a very steep staircase, and within two or three steps from the foot, I suddenly fell forward, and landed on my knee on the floor. On making an attempt to rise, I found myself utterly powerless, and had to call in the assistance of two men, who placed me in my cutter. I drove them to my residence, where they put me on a chair and carried me to my room. They put me into a large arm chair where I remained until morning, when a friend came in and helped to undress me. I remained in that position with my limbs stretched on a board placed horizontally for nearly five weeks. Both limbs were so enormously swollen that no examination of the knee joint could be made, and we were totally in the dark as to the precise nature of the injury. I did not feel the slightest pain during that period. One night I got a couple of friends to carry me to bed, where they left me very comfortable. I felt very easy until about 2 o'clock a.m., when I became so restless and uneasy that I managed to pull myself on to a chair which was at the bedside, and by slow degrees I got close to my old chair, when in attempting to lift myself into it, it rolled away, and I fell between the two with both legs closely bent. It seemed

as if I could hear the tissues tearing as if they had been cotton. Since that time, until within the last few months, I was unable to make even the slightest attempt at standing. Now I can raise myself without help and stand firmly on both legs, but if I make an attempt to walk, when I raise one foot the other limb gives way. I trust, however, by the aid of a very ingenious apparatus made for me by Mr. Cram, of Woodstock, to be enabled during the summer to make some satisfactory attempt at walking. It was a considerable time before I found out the real nature of the injury, until one day, whilst looking for the details of another case, in the *British American Journal*, for October, 1861, I found the report of a similar case by Dr. Adams, of the London Hospital. I may add that I was on the verge of 60, 5 feet 6 inches in height, and my weight was 274lbs."

The success of the dinner was largely due to the active co-operation of the lady friends of the doctor. After partaking of a splendid repast, an appropriate programme was gone through. Among many prominent gentlemen present from a distance were Drs. Digby, Brown, Philip, and Griffin, of Brantford. Dr. Turquand, of Woodstock; Dr. Lovett, of Ayr, and Dr. Caw, of Parkhill. Letters expressive of regret at not being able to be present were received from the Hon. D. Christie, Judge O'Reilly, Judge McQueen, Dr. Covernton, of Simcoe, Dr. Henwood, of Brantford, and a couple of the clergymen of the town. All the doctors' medical associates, as well as several of the clergymen of Paris, were present. Dr. Digby, Mayor of Brantford, occupied the chair, and after excellent and appropriate addresses by the chairman, Canon Townley, and Dr. Turquand, and instrumental music by Miss McKinnon, of Paris, and vocal by Dr. Filgiano and Mr. Lamb, of Hamilton, Dr. Burt addressed the meeting. At the conclusion of his remarks, on behalf of Dr. Dickson's many friends, he read an address, beautifully engrossed on parchment, which he presented along with a very handsome purse to the doctor. In doing so, Dr. Burt remarked as follows:—"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have been confided with the responsible task of reading an address to our honored associate, in behalf of his many friends assembled here this evening. When appointed by your committee to take part in the programme for this evening, and to accompany my