

THE NORTHERN LANCET.

Now that the Manitoba University is taking steps to assume those duties as an educating body, which no doubt at its foundation was intended that it should in the future become, it is necessary that the medical faculty of the Province should take into consideration the position they occupy. There exists in Manitoba at present a College of Physicians and Surgeons, supposed to be composed of all the registered practitioners of the Province, who, however, are rarely and then only, in a very perfunctory manner, consulted in any steps the officials of this Institution deem necessary, and we will do these somewhat mythical personages the justice to state that their lethargic normal condition is very acutely stimulated; they confine themselves exclusively to collecting the registration fee of \$25 which is legally payable so as to enable a medical man to practise in Manitoba, and even this duty is carried out in a most erratic and to the uninitiated unaccountable manner. The majesty of the law is hurled at the heads of some whom it is supposed may be made to pay up readily or who will do so on a little pressure, but others, especially if they be quacks and charlatans, may practice how, when and where they please without remonstrance or interference from these officials. What becomes of the fees so collected? Many would be glad to know. This is the sole duty performed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba. We have then, the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, who are the teaching and examining professional body, and lastly there is the University of Manitoba which grants the degrees of medicine and surgery. To any one acquainted with medical education the foregoing statement will be sufficient to show the defects of the present system as regards this Province, and it is now to the interest of every member of the profession practising within the limits of Manitoba or interested in the school here to use their influence to have this crude condition of affairs altered. The time is most

opportune and the transition from chaos to order easily effected. The College of Physicians and Surgeons should become a thing of the past and to the University of Manitoba should be transferred all the legal powers of this body. The Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons should also disappear, the present chair holders becoming University Professors of their respective subjects. The University would thus become the teaching body, the examining body, and conferrer of degrees. The matriculating examination need not be made more difficult, but there can be no doubt that the desire is gaining ground that the degrees of Medicine and Surgery should only be conferred after that of Arts and the suggested arrangement would enable a student to educate himself for both degrees concurrently. It would place the Manitoba graduates on a much better standing and would command extended reciprocity with other colleges and universities, and further, would promote that most desirable object, the timely establishing one powerful and well supported and appointed University, ample in its facilities for the education requisite for and conferring of the various professional degrees. A University that would admit of no rivalry in the future, but would be to Manitoba what Oxford and Cambridge have been to the United Kingdom and the University of Dublin to the whole of Ireland. The Manitoba University might enfold all the registered practitioners (quack employes excepted) at present on the list and we feel sure that fees now grudgingly paid would then be cheerfully tendered to the University authorities. That such a change would attract a much larger class there can be little doubt. The only parties who would be interfered with in the proposed measure would be a few officials of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Unfortunately they are an established body and therefore many do not care to interfere with them, but the welfare of the profession in this Province demands a change and as we have before stated the time is now most propitious and we cordially invite the profession to give their views on the subject.