

Correspondence.

To The Editor CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to bring the following facts to your attention and the readers of the RECORD which I understand represents the interests of the Medical Faculty of Bishop's College. In 1887, on my arrival in the colony of British Guiana, my native country, after graduation at Montreal, I found a new ordinance in force prohibiting colonial and foreign graduates from registration. I applied to the Surgeon General for a license to practice in the ordinary way, but was refused. I told him I thought I was entitled to exemption as the new ordinance was introduced into the court of policy about seven months and put into operation only two months before my graduation, and I thought it unjust to apply the new law in my case. I offered to go to Britain for triple qualification if that would enable me to get an appointment in the Government Medical Service. I was told in reply that age and other disabilities were against me, and that I ought to practice in some other country. Hoping in time to remove these disabilities, I began the practice of my profession. It was made evident to me and my patients, however, that I was constantly under police surveillance, for any deaths occurring in my practice were subjected at once to coroner's inquest, police inquiry and chemical analysis of medicines prescribed by me, to detect if possible any error whereby I might be further persecuted. Finally, a memorial with over 1,800 signatures was sent by influential people to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in England, stating the facts and praying that I might be relieved of the hardships under which I labored. This prayer was granted, and an ordinance was passed exempting me from the requirement of the ordinance of 1886. In the face of this ordinance the police still continued to interfere in my practice. It is difficult for a practitioner to perform major operations in the houses of private patients owing to bad hygienic surroundings, etc. I, therefore, started a private hospital for such work, but that was defamed in