

out the Province." And further on he says, "that with respect to the recent legislation, the public papers exerted mostly all the influence effected by the Fourth Estate." Can it be possible that "Ethics" sincerely believes that the day was won by these few letters that appeared in the papers, some of which were very good, we admit; some very foolish, and others containing so many weak points that their effects were completely lost by the criticisms to which they were open? We maintain that the successful passage of the Act was due to the profession, which was almost unanimous in its favour, and the influence which individual members in all parts of the country brought to bear on the Legislature.

It is scarcely necessary for us to say to the intelligent readers of the LANCET, that *it never arrogated to itself* "that it should be the universal organ of Ontario medical men." We simply stated that we considered the pages of *medical journals* a fitter arena for a warfare on medical subjects than the daily press; and we believe our remarks are as applicable now as they were at that time. There are at least two other medical journals having a circulation in Ontario, to either of which "Ethics" could have sent his letter for publication, if he considered it of such vital interest to the profession. "Ethics" endeavors to make a little capital out of our remark that we sent marked copies of the LANCET EXTRA to the members of the Legislature, and sneeringly says that "some would object to this outside circulation of medical literature and anatomical plates on other grounds." Here he is in error again. The LANCET EXTRA contained neither medical literature proper, nor anatomical plates, but was occupied wholly with the text of the Homœopathic bill, and articles against it and in favour of Baxter's bill—*verbum sat sap.*

#### LEGALIZED TARIFFS OF FEES.

Now that the new provisions of the Medical Act are in force with respect to legalizing tariffs of fees, making the tariff of a local association a scale of "reasonable charges," admitting of easy proof as such in a court of law, we note that the profession appears desirous of taking advantage of this great privilege conferred by the new Act. This is

eminently right and proper. The legislative provision was worth striving for; and now that it is obtained it should be acted up to. We earnestly advise our friends practicing in districts where, as yet, there are no medical associations, to lose no time in organizing themselves into a Society; and besides discussing medical matters and cultivating a sentiment of unity and brotherly feeling, not to omit the proper consideration of a scale of fees with a view to legalizing the same by proceeding under the Act. It is a valuable feature of this provision, we think, that it directly tends to bring members of the profession together. The result should be that many more medical associations will be called into existence than are at present in operation. Of the many benefits likely to arise from this species of professional intercourse it is scarcely necessary to speak.

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#### OUR COUNTRY PRACTITIONERS.

Beyond the class affected, it may not be fully known that in a large part of Ontario the circumstances of the country practitioner have been greatly narrowed by the straitness which has beset his clients in consequence of the deficiency of last year's harvest. Not that there has been less for him to do—we should suppose that there has been little or no falling off in the amount of his work—but that the great scarcity of money among the rural population has been such as to deprive the country doctor of an immediate reward for his services. When, as in some parts of the province, the cost of wintering cattle has been equal to buying them twice over, and when serious embarrassments have overtaken the farmer, the doctor, it may well be supposed, has been compelled to wait for the settlement of his accounts, or to put up with a mere fractional payment. Happily, the prospect, long so dull, is now considerably brightening, and the promise of a rich harvest brings along with it the promise of a better state of things for our country friends. We hope that the autumn settlements, which the country doctor generally expects to make, will this year be quite satisfactory, and compensate him in some measure for the dull season he has been compelled to pass through.