

Correspondence.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER AND REVIEW:

SIR,—In the year of grace 1907 it was announced with a flourish of trumpets that the Toronto General Hospital, which had been carefully and conservatively managed by a Board of Trustees for fifty years, was altogether out of date and, by implication, the then Trustees were antiquated, their methods archaic, and that the time had come for a new hospital and a new regime which was to shed lustre on the City of Toronto, and incidentally on the new board of governors. An Act was passed by the Legislature creating a new Board and giving power to build a new hospital on a new site. It was further stated that the new hospital would be used for clinical purposes only and would be therefore allied with the University of Toronto. The Government of Ontario was asked to vote \$300,000 in the interests of medical education and they voted the money. The City of Toronto was asked to give \$200,000 for the benefit of the sick poor, and the Council voted the money. The citizens were appealed to for subscriptions, and they subscribed liberally. In all some \$1,100,000 was voted or was promised by individuals. A large Board of Governors, composed of leading citizens, was appointed, but the real power was left in the hands of a small executive committee who proceeded to run things. It was found that the medical men who had given their services gratis for so many years were inefficient, notwithstanding the fact that they comprised most of the leading physicians and surgeons of the city. At first it was proposed that there should be one medical and one surgical service, but it was found that such a plan would not meet with support, and three medical and three surgical services were established with heads for the special departments. Men who were not on the University Faculty were ruthlessly ejected on the ground that all medical men in attendance must be teachers in the Faculty. Then it was found that certain former professors of Trinity Medical College were much too old, from forty upwards. So the 55-year rule having got rid of most of them, others were offered inferior positions, which they naturally declined. Others were willy nilly kicked upstairs on to the