

Dr. Sangster's communication is of a different stamp, he mainly devoting himself to giving us advice on how to carry out a controversy with him. His advice may be good, but no man, even the best of us, is fond of taking it if it does not coincide with his own views. The doctor will probably remember that old and well known line in Virgil, "*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*," and just as probably be able to catch the meaning of the reference. Looking over the first paragraph, it is easily evident that the writer seemed bitten, but as we have nothing more to say on that point, if our readers want any enlightenment we would refer them to Dr. Sangster himself, who, we are sure, would gladly gratify any undue curiosity as to our action in connection with it.

The second paragraph in the letter is a mild attempt to try and get out of what he says in his former letter, his pen having evidently run too fast for his brains. Combined with this is some sarcasm which, if it pleases the doctor to use, can never do anyone any harm, so he is quite welcome to his style. Then he makes an attempt to come down to business, using his own expression, and discuss the ethics of the professional tax. But still he does not do so, evidently preferring to wander off and attempt to break his lance against our own personal shield. Please remember, doctor, that the profession is not interested in your opinion of us, and look for some arguments which, if they are forthcoming, we will certainly answer. It is not our business, nor is it what we are trying to do, to make a defence of the Council, as that has all been ably done before, but to give our correspondents a fair idea of our views on the matter presented to us by you.

Toronto may be a healthy city, and probably is too healthy for some of us, still it must be remembered that the medical men in the city are not millionaires, and in spite of that \$600 subsidy which seems to choke in our correspondent's throat, they must work, and work hard, to get that same necessary bread and butter that is needed by "obscure country doctors." As a conclusion, "the four new men put on" give thanks for the very high opinion held of them, and only hope they will continue to merit it.

## REPORT ON REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

The Report relating to the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Province of Ontario, for the year ending December 31st, 1891, has come to hand. We cannot but be surprised at some of the reflections cast upon the medical profession of this Province in that report. We are told that the working of the Act has been but partially successful, and there is given as one of the reasons for this "a carelessness on the part of physicians." Further, in the Inspector's report to the Registrar General, he says: "I find that many physicians are entirely ignorant of the section in the Act which calls upon them to send in certificates of cause of death," etc. In summing up the question, we have asked our selves (1) What is the cause of this "carelessness"? (2) Who is responsible for the "ignorance"? (3) Is there a remedy? In looking about for a cause of the first, we find in the report the following: "With regard to the carelessness shown in the performance of the duties required of physicians under the Act, it may be stated that it is in part due to a neglect on the part of our medical colleges to inculcate the important lessons to be gathered from statistics of disease, and of any special attention being given to the existence of a Registration Act in the Province, and the duties of physicians with regard to it." In the medical colleges we are taught the great value of statistics when they are absolutely correct, but we are, and should be, taught their entire uselessness when they are incomplete. And we are told that the "working of the Act in the past has been but partially successful," hence what is the value of a report like the one before us? We think, too, the turning of our medical colleges into law schools for a perusal of the *revised statutes* would hardly be in accord with our Medical Act.

In looking for a cause for the "ignorance," we have not far to go, for in turning up the Act we are led to believe that the fault does not rest so much upon the physicians as upon the Act itself. We feel certain that if the Act provided that those who are public servants should send out blank forms, stamped and addressed to their proper destination, together with a copy of the Act, instead of requiring physicians to send in for them, a wholesome improvement would be effected.