

chosen is that of Educational Reform, practically as it pertains to Ontario. We have asked a number of physicians, representing both the medical schools and outside profession, for replies to a series of questions which will be found below. We have to return our thanks for their kindness and promptness in responding.

## QUESTIONS.

1. Do you consider that the Ontario Medical Council requires from students an attendance on too many didactic lectures?
2. If the number of didactic lectures be deemed excessive, what effect will such excess have on the work of the students in the laboratories and hospitals?
3. Do you think that Medical Examinations, as at present conducted by the Ontario Medical Council, are sufficiently practical?
4. Do you consider that the examiners in primary branches should be selected from men who have never taught these branches?

## ANSWERS.

Dr. John A. Mullin :

I have time to say only a word or two on the questions you put. I have always thought it was unfortunate that students, whether at primary or final, should be examined by any except those engaged in teaching, for I think there are very few general practitioners who are capable of giving the examination that will test the acquirements of the student. This was the opinion of Dr. Rolph, expressed when the incorporation of the profession was mooted many years ago—formed from what he had seen of the examinations at the old Medical Board—and I think there have been many cases since to illustrate the force of his remarks, where medical men engaged in general practice would be obliged to "read up" on various subjects before entering on their duties as examiners. I think that it might be possible to arrange for some system under which the teachers in the several schools might conduct the examinations—or a committee composed of representatives of the several schools might prepare the questions and conduct the examinations. Of course, one difficulty would be to maintain secrecy as to questions and subjects, but it would not seem impossible to provide for this, and also to provide against undue favoritism to their own pupils. I think it ought to be at-

tempted, for the plan of appointing examiners from the general profession will never do justice.

I have several times refused to take part in examinations on the grounds I have mentioned. If, however, the present system is objectionable as regards the Medical Council, is it not equally so as regards the examiners in the University of Toronto? The matter is a very difficult one to deal with, and I feel that it is a subject that ought to be dealt with by those engaged in teaching, and I feel that any views I have are too crude, and not worth anything.

Dr. J. Algernon Temple, Trinity Medical College :

In reply to your circular letter of the 3rd inst., I would say in reply.

1. No.

3. *Re* Medical Council Examinations. I do not think they are sufficiently practical.

4. Primary Branches Examiners. I think the student is done a great injustice by appointing examiners, in these branches, who are not teachers, and who are not constantly engaged in the daily study of them, especially in such branches as Physiology and Chemistry. How many men, in general practice, are qualified to examine in these branches? The present examiner in Physiology is a notable instance of a mistaken appointment.

Toronto, Feb. 20th, 1890.

Dr. Wm. Burt :

1. Yes.

2. The students cannot give sufficient time to requisite work in the laboratories and hospitals.

3. I have had frequent opportunities of observing the Medical and Surgical Anatomy examinations, and I know them to be most practical. I have endeavored to make my own examinations as practical as possible, and the prevailing answer that I got from students, when pressed for a solution of some easy practical question, was that their opportunities for practical work were not sufficient. So far as I have looked into the matter, the endeavor has been to make all the examinations as practical as possible.

4. As a rule, they should not be. Some Surgeons do not allow their Descriptive Anatomy to leave them by constant reviewing