

of night owl, who delights in prowling about in the darkness, that they forget that he is only human, and needs unbroken sleep as much or even more than any other worker; indeed, we know of cases in the country where they send for the doctor at night, simply because it suits their convenience to go for him after the day's work is done, and because they are too busy to send for him in the day time. The victims of this thoughtlessness of course broke down in health, and had to give up practice altogether for nearly a year, for which loss they received no compensation. There is a way to avoid this common cause of loss of health and early death, and that is by educating the people, especially one's own patients, to understand that a doctor requires rest as much and more than any one else. How are we to do this? By refusing to go out at night? No. By evincing anger? No. How, then? Simply by charging double or triple for night visits. Let us get up and go with the messenger with alacrity, and even the appearance of pleasure if we can, but wait until we send our bill, and then remember to make the difference between the charge for night visits and day visits so strikingly great, that even the dullest patient cannot fail to observe it. Nor need we fear to loose any, or at all events many, patients by following this course. They will soon get to understand that it is for their good as well as the doctor's that they should send for him in the day-time.

DOCTORS' BILLS.

In the article referred to above, another cause of shortened life is financial worry, or what might be expressed by the words "being hard up." Whether medical men are ever in this condition we cannot state; but if they are, it is not to be wondered at, when we remember how negligent they are in business matters, but more especially in sending out and collecting their accounts. It is a general complaint among medical men that to one likes to pay the doctor's bill. That the same person who pays his grocer and butcher gladly and promptly is slow in paying the medical adviser, to whom, perhaps, he owes his life. And we are apt to say that our patients are ungrateful. But we think medical men are themselves to blame. It is too much to expect of human nature that our patient's gratitude will keep as fresh after many months as it was the very day we pronounced him out of danger. The present system of sending out accounts once a year is altogether wrong.

Even the patients themselves frequently ask many times for their accounts before they can get them, and it is only after they have forgotten all about them that the bills come in, perhaps when they have spent the money on something else. If doctors would spend a few hours on the last day of every month, they could send out bills for services rendered during the month, as well as reminders, in the form of a second account, to those who have forgotten to respond to the first one. We have followed this method in our own practice, and do not think we have ever lost any patients thereby, except a few of that undesirable class, who, though quite able, never have any intention of remunerating the physician for his services. In fact, this is one of the advantages of this system; it soon lets you know who intends to pay and who does not. Indeed we know of some specialists in this city who send a bill to a patient on the first day of the month, who only came for his first consultation on the thirtieth on purpose to let him know what his charges were. Be it understood, however, that in these remarks we are only referring to the doctor's right to be paid by those who are quite able to do so; we do not wish to discourage any one from attending all poor people free of any charge.

We may have something further to say on the subject of fees in our next issue, as this is always a subject for discussion among medical men.

THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

OF THE DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO THEIR PATIENTS
AND THE OBLIGATIONS OF PATIENTS TO THEIR
PHYSICIANS.

ART. I.—*Duties of Physicians to their patients.*

1. A physician should not only be ever ready to obey the calls of the sick, but his mind ought also to be imbued with the greatness of his mission, and the responsibility he habitually incurs in its discharge. These obligations are the more deep and enduring, because there is no tribunal other than his own conscience to adjudge penalties for carelessness or neglect. Physicians should, therefore, minister to the sick with due impressions of the importance of their office; reflecting that the case, the health, and the lives of those committed to their charge depend on their skill, attention and fidelity. They should study, also, in their deportment, so to unite *tenderness* with *firmness*,