

fore further resolved, that the members of this Association will not, hereafter, engage in such practice, except for such time as may be necessary to terminate any existing engagement." These resolutions were published in your journal and the *Lancet*. That some members of the Association were thought not to be above reproach appears from the following resolution of March 2nd, 1880: "That whereas it is believed that the resolutions of this Association regarding contract practice have not been fully carried out, the matter be taken up at the next regular meeting." There is nothing in the minutes after this until March 3rd, 1885, when the following motion was carried: "That the resolution of June 10th, 1878, relating to contract practice, be rescinded." This latter motion was the outcome of a belief that certain members were carrying on this lodge practice clandestinely, and that those who were not engaged in this practice would not undertake it under any circumstances, and that those who were would be relieved from the censure of the Association. In fact, it was considered that a Provincial resolution would have more effect on the erring or weaker ones. The matter, although it appears to have taken a retrograde movement, according to this resolution, has actually progressed, as will appear from the fact that members of our profession who were, at the time of passing the first resolution mentioned, actively engaged in lodge practice, would not now undertake it under any consideration, and from the fact that some of our benevolent lodges have done away with the contract doctor. Other lodges, I am led to believe, would do likewise, but for a clause in their charter compelling them to appoint a physician. I will now give a few reasons that I gave a deputation who waited on me to become a lodge doctor, when I first entered private practice. By appointing a physician as lodge doctor, many of the well-to-do are placed on a par with those who are not. Some of you are able to pay our regular fees, and those who are not, I will not ask them. I do not think whether a man belongs to a society or not when he asks for my assistance. If well-to-do, I expect my pay; if poor and cannot pay, I will help him. Those who are well-to-do pay no more fees than the poorest, and get their medical attendance at the same rate. Those members who do not wish

to employ the lodge doctor are not allowed any reduction in their fees. This is a great injustice. Again, it hampers the liberty of the patient in the choice of a physician. It appears rather degrading that the physician is selected simply because he is the lodge doctor. The physician should be selected from some higher motive. And, again, the practice interferes with medical harmony. Take e.g. the following case, which is not of infrequent occurrence: The husband of a family, who for trivial ailments consults the lodge doctor, is taken seriously ill, while under his care. Then he and the rest of the family wish their regular physician. Now, it is not a pleasant task for the latter to undertake. I feel that I have been benefited by the societies, although I have never attended one. There are families, the husbands of which I do not attend, which feel that they can pay me better, when the lodge doctor is paid so little. I feel for the lodge doctor. Again, I hear the complaint that many lodge members are very exacting with their physician, more so than is professionally required. But I was told by the deputation that it would help me into practice. Yes, I answered, and it will help me out of it. I have too much respect for those who are many years my senior in practice to take from them patients between whom the best of good feeling exists, by becoming a lodge doctor for a fee which cannot remunerate me for my services. I am willing to take my time and turn, assist my seniors, and get my patients from some higher motive. I am now twenty years a graduate, and never regret the stand which I took. In some of the States I am assured the benevolent societies have no lodge doctor, members being allowed perfect freedom in the choice of their physician. What could be better in a country where the State is watchful that none but qualified persons shall be allowed to practice?

Yours truly,

W. BURT.

Paris, Sept. 2nd, 1890.

Pamphlets Received.

The Sewerage of Columbus, Ohio. Address of Col. G. E. Waring, Jr.

Dosimetry in Colorado, by J. E. MacNeill M.D., Denver, Colorado.