

and goes twice a week to a doctor (?) who cures *all* his patients with electricity, and the young lady is easily persuaded to *try him* for—constipation.

A younger brother has an unseemly eruption and a “skin specialist,” after exhibiting the pictures and the pickles in his office, promises him a “skin like velvet,” but he will have to take medicine for six months.

But why multiply the evidence, the fact is known to every one of you that united families, so far as a common physician is concerned, is the exception nowadays.

I am not prepared to account for this state of things, but I may be pardoned if I suggest that some of us are largely responsible for it ourselves.

There is a trite saying “that too many men abandon the study of the profession when they begin the practice of it,” and in the busy life a doctor leads, when his rides are long and tiresome, when his sleep is broken up, when he is struggling to build up a practice, and can scarcely make ends meet, it is not to be wondered at if he does not keep abreast of the times with his reading, or, if he is not within reach of the city and its hospital clinics, he is very apt to drop into the rear rank.

#### A POST GRADUATE COURSE.

I am more than justified in making the suggestion that a few months spent in a post-graduate course every five years would be of incalculable benefit to him, and if Alma Mater, when, with benedictions and a diploma, sends forth her Neophyte to heal the sick, the appellation of “graduate” in its broad sense should be reserved, and the warrant to practise his profession, be made contingent on his return every five years, for revision, instruction, and further promotion.

A short practical course with this object in view could easily be devised and carried out by every Medical teaching body, and the result would be a boon to the profession, a benefit to the public, and the fractional tendency of the age would be greatly reduced.

One of the most easily belittling sins of the physician is to engage in some kind of supplementary occupation. It is natural enough that he does so, because the emoluments of a strictly professional career are not equal to the income of a successful commercial man.

The deflection may be elevating, or it may be debasing in its tendency. Literature and art have their votaries among the profes-