

## Correspondence

---

### A METHOD OF SECURING GREATER UNIFORMITY IN PROFESSIONAL CHARGES.

---

*To the Editor of DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY :*

We all recognize the lack of uniformity in our system of professional charges, and no doubt would welcome with appreciation a system that would facilitate the adjustment of the amount of remuneration in each particular service rendered, providing it fulfilled the two cardinal conditions which underlie our financial dealings, viz., adequate remuneration for services rendered, and a just consideration of the financial condition of the patient.

I have endeavored to give a solution of this problem in terms of the table herewith presented, and in this connection I suggest that the remuneration for professional services be stated in definite amounts, and not in the sliding scale that we now use, and that the amount charged be estimated upon the basis that a single man without any one dependent upon his income, and with an income of one hundred dollars per month can reasonably be expected to pay full amount or 100 per cent. That for each additional individual dependent upon the monthly income, a 10 per cent. reduction be made, and for each ten dollars decrease in the monthly income 10 per cent. be made, and also for each ten dollars per month that the income rises above one hundred dollars per month an additional member of the family is included in the full rate.

This schedule is intended to apply only to those in moderate circumstances. When the income reaches two hundred a month, the matter of remuneration is better left wholly to the discretion of the physician, but the table can be extended to cover all incomes. The principles embodied in this system we have all recognized, and have adopted more or less in our daily practice, regulating our charges according therewith; but with such a system as I have outlined we could secure a greater degree of uniformity than with our present method.

The question of the monthly income, in many cases, would present a difficulty, only an approximation would be possible. Then there is the ever-varying personal factor to consider, a matter that cannot be calculated in terms of tables or mathematics.