

Very Hard, but True.

FOLLOWING along the lines of an able and appropriate editorial in the *Medical Record* for May 1st, we wish to say a word or two on the general condition of the medical profession. First of all, we agree thoroughly with our esteemed contemporary that there are far too many doctors. It is all very well to say that there is room at the top, but the vast majority have no hope of getting there. The bottom is packed to suffocation. To the entire medical profession, it is safe to say that the average income is not \$1,000 a year.

We further agree with the *Record* in stating that notwithstanding this state of affairs, the medical colleges are urging young men to enter the study of medicine. Of course, what the professors lose in income from the crowded condition of the profession they hope to make from the fees of students, and thus they keep on booming the colleges.

The whole tendency of medical practice is changing. A man can come to Toronto and pay \$2.80 a week to the General Hospital, or any other hospital, and secure board and lodging, medicines, and doctor, or a consultation of doctors. He has the perfect right to enter a ward at \$2.80 a week and enjoy the above privileges. This is cheaper than belonging to a lodge and having his club doctor.

The accident case is picked up from the street and rushed off to the hospital. Some hospital surgeon takes charge of the case, and the general practitioner is, of course, out. This condition of things is increasing so far as city centres are concerned. Medicine and surgery are now being carried on somewhat after the co-operative plan, and to a considerable extent by the many municipalities.

Further, no small amount of the knowledge pertaining to the healing art has become common property. People treat their own colds with quinine, phenacetin, or a cough mixture; their cases of anæmia with Bland's pills, or beef, iron and wine; their rheumatism with some liniment, or salicylate of soda; their sores with some salve the druggist puts up for them; their gonorrhœa with some nostrum, and their syphilis with some specific advertised and sold broadcast. Constipation, headache, neuralgia, indigestion and many other complaints come under the same category, where the person afflicted and the druggist manage the business.

The remedy for this, and the only remedy, is fewer doctors. The study of medicine does not fit a man for any other calling. His time and money are wasted, if he does not keep on in practice. It