

than six or seven years, and costing between £1,000 and £2,000 in capital. As a profession, in the pursuit of which the abnegation of self is an essential feature, medicine may be practised in the country with satisfaction by congenial natures; as a trade worked on strictly business lines, it cannot, as a rule, provide any adequate return for the capital invested. It is not to be wondered at if Mr. Morell Mackenzie declares that, although he has the greatest admiration for many country doctors, some of whom are leading truly heroic lives, he would be very sorry to see a son of his start with a view of becoming a country G. P.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

Mr. Roosevelt at the Sorbonne

To an audience of 3,000, composed, we are told, of the *élite* of the Parisian intellectual classes, Mr. Roosevelt last week delivered a lecture on "The Duties of the Citizen in a Republic." The most impressive part of the address was, perhaps, that devoted to the family and to the population question. Mr. Roosevelt insisted that the benediction of Biblical times, "Thy seed shall inherit the earth," was the benediction of our own; he declared that sterility was the worst of scourges, and that nothing was more deserving of reprobation than voluntary sterility; it was worse than a misfortune—it was a crime. It would be interesting to learn whether Mr. Roosevelt was aware of the fact, which was commented upon at the time in these columns, that M. Bertillon a short while ago made a census of the classes of which the audience at the Sorbonne was composed, and found that the average number of children per married couple only slightly exceeded one. Some few had three, some two, many only one, and a considerable proportion none at all. The statistics for the rest of France do not show much difference from those of Paris. In some departments, in late years, the deaths have exceeded the births. Even among the Bretons it has become an opprobrium to have a large family, and the whole population has been kept from showing a positive decline only by immigration of Italians (who in many districts supply a great part of the unskilled labor), of Swiss, and even Germans. The French population has been virtually stationary for generations. During this time a rigid code of unwritten conventions has been constructed, and has fixed the whole of French society in bonds, from which, even if they desired it, they could not, without great difficulty, free themselves. During all these years individual