

the public shall at all times be required to provide that such drinking water shall be pure and wholesome.

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### GEORGE BERNARD SHAW AND THE DOCTORS.

Shaw's latest book, containing three plays, of which "The Doctor's Dilemma" seems most deserving of attention. The dilemma is essentially this,—whether the doctor shall save from death of tuberculosis, by means of a "culture" whose use he alone understands, a noble, worthy, but unsuccessful friend, or a worthless but brilliant artist with whose wife the doctor happens to be in love. The doctor saves his friend, the artist falls into the hands of a less expert physician and dies. And the play stops inscrutably. Apart from the medical impossibility of the plot and the absurdity of depicting a physician in such a situation, the conclusion is not even convincing as to whether the doctor followed the higher or the lower code of ethics, the former being, of course, that which Mr. Shaw professes.

In the preface to "The Doctor's Dilemma," Mr. Shaw expounds his theory of the problem by explaining that the fault is with the public, which persists in idealizing the doctors, and, by expecting them to live up to impossible standards, forces them into a perpetual bluff. This somewhat "lame and impotent conclusion" hardly seems to consort with Mr. Shaw, the realizer of ideals, but so Mr. Scott would interpret it. Mr. Shaw's own attitude towards the medical profession is summed up in the fourteen conclusions and maxims with which his preface ends. In substance, these are as follows:

"1. Nothing is more dangerous than a poor doctor—not even a poor employer or a poor landlord.

"2. Of all the anti-social vested interests, the worst is the vested interest in ill-health.

"3. Remember that an illness is a misdemeanor and treat the doctor as an accessory unless he notifies every case to the public health authority.

"4. Treat every death as a possible, and under our present system a probable, murder by making it the subject of a reasonably conducted inquest, and execute the doctor, if necessary, as a doctor, by striking him off the register.

"5. Make up your mind how many doctors the community needs to keep it well. Do not register more or less than this number, and let registration constitute the doctor a civil servant with a dignified living wage paid out of public funds.