

BIBLICAL MEDICAL ETHICS.

"Honor due the physician and why?"—*The book of Apocrypha, Ecclesiasticus, chapter xxxviii.*

"1. Honour a physician with the honour due unto him, for the uses which ye may have of him, for the Lord hath created him.

"3. The skill of the physician shall lift up his head, and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration.

"4. The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth; and he that is wise will not abhor them.

"12. Then give place to the physician, for the Lord hath created him; let him not go from thee, for thou hast need of him.

"13. There is a time when in their hands there is good success.

"15. He that sinneth before his maker, let him fall into the hands of the physician."

Medical men will recognize the above clipping, but fearing the laity might not read understandingly a short explanation is given. The books of Apocrypha are considered spurious scripture (hermaphrodite) by Protestants. The book of Ecclesiasticus is supposed to have been written by Jesus the son of Sirach and is termed, "the prologue of the wisdom of Jesus." This book was written about two hundred years before Christ.

The Apocrypha is contained in many of the Protestant bibles.

These sayings, probably, give a fair estimate of the medical man, as held by the laity in those days. It is to be noted that he was called a physician and not "Doc." The reason assigned for this honor, however, "the uses ye may have of him," will not bear close scrutiny from a moral standpoint; but it represents the spirit of the people of to-day.

The last clause of the first verse forever settles the vexed question of the origin of doctors, "for the Lord hath created him." The skill of the physician then as now marked his success. He must possess ability in some direction or he cannot succeed. If he has merit, somebody will appreciate it whether it is in the line of our liking or not. The world appreciates success and extends the helping hand. "And in the sight of great men he shall be held in admiration." The fourth verse should be pondered by skeptics in medicine. It is not the part of wisdom to abhor medicines. The practitioner who fails as a rule to get results from the medicine he administers should turn a searching gaze within himself and often he will discover the reason of his failure.

The twelfth verse no doubt means to set a plate for him at table, for he is tired and hungry with his long ride or much labor and waiting, and to remember him on pay day. The second

sentence, "God has created him," drives the truth of his origin home and clinches it.

"Let him not go from thee," do not put him out of mind; do not banish him from your thoughts—keep him in hailing distance—an unexpected event may occur at any time. The period of gestation is up and you had better speak to him in time. Do not let him go off on the train to Jerusalem or Damascus, but engage his time and pay him.

Verse thirteen says "There is a time when in their hands there is good success." There were times when they were not successful. People would die. The physician would at one time be on Pisgah's Mount and again in the Slough of Despond. A bad run of cases making him wish it was the other fellow's; his rival's luck. Wishing he had stuck to the farm or workshop. Wondering if he had not missed his calling. But this will not do; he arouses himself from his dispondency; at it again, and good success crowns his efforts. In those days the physicians blistered and bled, gave strong drastic cathartics and turpeth mineral. Cauterized with the hot iron using no anæsthetic. The physician was the go-between, middle men as it were, between the Creator and the other fellow, giving color to the mooted question of the physician's origin, for verse fifteen says, "He that sinneth before his Maker let him fall into the hands of the physician."

ITCHING OF JAUNDICE.

For the itching of jaundice, Prof. Da Costa advised sodii bromidum with antipyrin internally, with the following ointment externally:

R. Menthol, gr. xx.
Alcohol, 1 oz.

M. Sig. For local use.—*Weekly Med. Rev.*

RHEUMATISM.—Audhuri recommends the following syrup:

R. Potass. iodid, gr. lxxx;
Sodii Salicylat. ʒv;
Syrup aurant. cort., ʒx;
M. Sig. ʒss. to ʒj. daily.

—*Medical News.*

PERSONAL.

Drs. Robert Craik and George Major sailed for England on July 1st in the SS. "Lake Ontario."

Dr. W. Grant Stewart left for Liverpool on July 4th per Allan SS. "Polynesian." He purposes being absent about two months.

Dr. T. Rodger, head surgeon of the Grand Trunk Railway, who has for the past seven weeks been dangerously ill with erysipelas, is now, we are pleased to be able to say, considered out of all danger. We trust ere long to see him quite recovered.