

similar circumstances, and the necessity which might often exist for a practitioner to visit a patient during a day and night as often as ten times. One who had been an assistant to Mr Spence of Edinburgh, now Professor of Surgery in the Edinburgh University, asserted that for passing a catheter, Mr. Spence never received less than two guineas, and very often as much as five guineas. On the other hand two medical men were produced on behalf of the defence, who reduced the bill to £80 9s. 6d., asserting that the fees were exorbitant, and that 2s. 6d. was an ample fee for passing a catheter, no matter how difficult. Judgment was however given for £190 9s. 6d. This decision has, as we before stated, caused a good deal of discussion, the leading journals of our profession having taken the matter up. The bad results of not having a settled scale of fees is ably argued by the *London Medical Times and Gazette*, which suggest that the British Medical Association, as the organ of British medicine, should act on this matter. The *Times and Gazette* says: "We think by such a work, well done, the Association would earn the gratitude of the whole profession. Of course the task would be neither easy nor light, and it would not be possible to draw up a table which could invariably and under all circumstances be applicable, but still a scale might be framed which would be of great value as a standard and guide of some weight and authority." The *Dublin Medical Press*, alluding to the same case, says, "We fear we must assume that according to the dictum of the two medical men who appeared for the defence, we are nothing better than rogues and extortionists; for we think that few Irish medical men, who can boast of any practice at all, would undertake an eight months' attendance on a man of property and the encountering daily every species of filth and offensiveness for a less sum than £250. The question resolves itself into what fee Dr. Irving's professional status entitled him to, and we think his status must be very low, indeed, if it be overstated in the remuneration which he demanded." Of course in Canada, such large fees are not often to be had, simply because men of ample means are not numerous, but for all that, we think that as a rule the profession in this country value their services at altogether too low a rate, and that much trouble and annoyance is frequently caused by the want of a uniform rate of charging. For instance, in city practice, at all events in Montreal, it is believed to be usual to charge \$1 per visit; and should the attendance be a prolonged one, to make a slight deduction from the gross amount; but yet we know of many instances where first class families have not been charged anything like the above named rate, and even families where, as a rule, the yearly bill seldom corresponds to the amount of work done,—a year of great sickness being followed by a