

Editorials.

Incomes of City Practitioners.

IN our last issue we said a few words with reference to the incomes of city practitioners, pointing out at least some causes for their diminution. There are still others which should be commented upon. The fault is not entirely apart from ourselves, and it is well to know that at least, to a certain extent, we have remedies which we may employ. We know it is true that owing to the activity of the large drug manufacturing houses our homes are flooded with, not only the products of their laboratories, in their most seductive forms, but also with literature setting forth the symptoms of various diseases and the marvellous results to be gained by taking freely of their drugs, bought with such care in places the most difficult of access and manufactured with scrupulous cleanliness, purity and accuracy. Each drug-house inferring that it has the faculty of manufacturing the best drugs in the world, and at least many of the houses pointing out so clearly the way in which the remedies should be employed that the services of physicians are not required until the poor patient has tried a number of remedies. Our newspapers provide ample puffing advertisements, certificates, and letters from people low down or high up in the social scale, or even in the church, are freely used to advertise nostrums of questionable value. Many of the retail druggists who dispense our prescriptions repeat them over and over again, and even, in some instances, make them up for customers who have never been our patients. In addition to this they sell largely advertised remedies on the free advice of the eminent professor (?), who may be consulted in person or by letter. We would advise members of the medical profession to be careful about where their prescriptions are dispensed. Any druggist whose time is largely devoted to the selling of the so-called cures of the eminent free doctors is not a safe one to intrust with the dispensing of our prescriptions. It would be safer, at least for the younger men or those who are not pressed with work, to dispense at least some of their more difficult prescriptions themselves. These means, with careful attention to their duties and business-like methods in dealing with their accounts, would go far towards improving at least the financial position of our profession.