

in his profession become burdensome and exacting; the calls upon his time from his patients are continuous, never ending, almost. Then if he properly equip himself so as to perform his duties to his patients, the demands upon him in the direction of study are great, and the ones most apt to be neglected are the members of his own household. Too often he neglects his finances and at the same time neglects wife and children unintentionally, but simply for the reason that he thinks the necessities of his calling demand it.

A doctor's wife of my acquaintance, made the observation on one occasion that she thought a physician's wife should have two husbands, one to attend to his patients and his business and the other to look after the interests of his family. Probably she was right, but there might be a conflict under these conditions between the two regarding their respective duties.

Does not the trouble lie in the fact, after all, that the members of the profession do not study how to perform their work in the easiest manner for themselves and for the good of all concerned? Might they not better be more exacting in the regulation of their hours; might they not educate their patients in the direction of being more considerate? Of course when sickness enters the average home it paralyzes all concerned, and at once the doctor is wanted, and *wanted at once*. If, however, the patients should be properly impressed with the fact that the doctor has rights which ought to be respected, they would stop to think now and then and say: "Can I not arrange my summons for the doctor in a way that he may receive it early in the day, so that his calls may come in such a manner as to enable him to map out his work for the day?" If they were properly reminded of the necessity for sleep on the part of the doctor, might they not frequently send their calls in at an earlier hour, in the day so that they might be made by daylight rather than towards midnight? If the patients be impressed with the fact that the doctor must have sleep and rest and a little time to devote to the pleasure of his family, and this were emphasized by an announcement that all calls received after dark should be charged for at double price, the result might be attained.

Many of the discomforts of a busy doctor's life might be avoided were he to make the proper efforts to study his own interests and to teach his patients to have some regard for his comfort.

He who has no regard for himself will find the world neglectful and wanting in respect for him. A generous consideration for humanity should demand from the physician a selfish watchfulness of the interests of the mechanism through which he serves suffering man.—*Medical Mirror*.

ANTIFEBRIN AS A HYPNOTIC FOR CHILDREN.—Amongst the many hypnotics which at present are

being so liberally supplied by the chemists to the medical profession, it is well not to lose sight of the value of antifebrin in certain groups of cases. Although the drug suggests more that its action is to hinder the development of febrile condition, or when that condition exists, to lower the temperature, still in many cases in my practice it has proved a valuable hypnotic and analgesic. Its value has been most evident in cases of bronchopneumonia, croupous pneumonia, and bronchitis, and that more especially in cases where children have been the sufferers. The marked relief which has frequently followed its administration has in many cases been extremely gratifying. Cases of fretful insomnia of the young, possibly partially caused by pain, fever, or general *malaise* have been speedily relieved by the drug, and from six to eight hours of refreshing sleep have been induced. After sleep the awakening was natural, there being no excitement nor confusion of thought. There was no period of excitement observed before the drug took effect. Along with the onset of sleep there was a fall of temperature, frequently a copious perspiration, at the same time the respiratory acts were slowed and the pulse-rate diminished. In no case have any evil effects been noticed, although the success of the drug induced its employment in a large number of cases. The need of a safe hypnotic for children, such as antifebrin seems to be, will, I think, be readily appreciated, the number of cases where it is required being unfortunately very large. It is still further enhanced as a serviceable drug for children by the fact that it is comparatively tasteless, and also by the smallness of its dose; the dose being from two to five grains, depending of course on the age of the child. A useful way of prescribing it, I have found, is to place the powder on the dorsum of the tongue either alone or mixed with a little powdered sugar. It might also be given in the form of a mixture—the drug being insoluble in a watery menstruum—suspended by the aid of mucilage and sweetened by any of the various flavoring syrups. There is yet another important advantage in hospital and general practice over many recently introduced hypnotics, in the comparative cheapness of the drug.—John Gordon, M.D., in *Br. Med. Jour.*

THE CHOLERA BACILLUS.—Professor Nussbaum, recently speaking on this subject, said: "Since Koch discovered the cholera comma bacillus it has come to be known that no human being living at the place where the epidemic rages escapes this poisonous fungus, for it is in the air we inhale, in the water we drink, upon the food we eat. It is in the soil, and when this is moist and unclean multiplies with extraordinary rapidity. In spite of this fact, in a city of, say, 200,000 persons, visited by cholera, perhaps but 1 per cent., that