

THE NEW CODE—DR. BALDWIN TO
DR. SAYRE.

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I will not say that the science of medicine has never been promoted by any of these false systems. Hydropathy has, perhaps, taught us something of the virtues and abuses of cold water. To Thompsonianism, as once practiced by bold and crazy empirics, we are indebted for a fuller knowledge of the dangers of steam and over-stimulation, no less than for a clearer insight into the mischievous use of remedies in themselves innocent or even valuable when rightly employed. The folly of Sir Kenelm Digby and Lord Gillbourne in the use of the "Sympathetic Powder" and the "Weapon Salve" in the treatment of recent wounds, dates the correct appreciation of union by the first intention, and led John Hunter to comprehend the doctrine of adhesion. The cure of scrofula by the "Royal Touch," The doctrine of "Signatures" and "Perkinism or Metallic Tractors" instructs us in the power of the imagination over diseases. Nor can I doubt that "Homœopathy," with its help from "expectant attention" and the farther aid from rigid dieting as taught by Broussais and his disciples, has made us better acquainted with the curative energies of nature when unassisted by medicine. And I can see, too, how "charms" and "amulets" or any other sort of hocus-pocus should produce results similar to those claimed for Homœopathy; and in the same light, I can comprehend why the fond mother still hangs the coral around the neck of her helpless babe, unconscious of the medical teaching which originated the custom—just as I can understand how the Druids of ancient Britain gave virtues to the mistletoe by cutting it with a golden knife when the moon was six days old, as their voices resounded through the groves to the mystic chorus of Derrydown! All these things I can see and not be much the wiser for seeing. But I confess my utter inability to see how the "demands of humanity" or the "interest of a liberal profession" can be promoted by the "advanced idea" of consultation between a regular practitioner and the advocate of an exclusive

dogma, even though the latter be a "legally qualified practitioner."

But, my dear Doctor, we need not repine at these things. Great sciences, as well as great principles in other departments of life, must be subject to severe trials. By detraction without, by dissension within, they can only be tested. Neither form of trial is worth much without the other, and it is when they combine in the history of a profession that such a profession demonstrates its strength and grandeur. Just now our profession confronts one of these hazards, and yet I cannot but hope that the new code of Ethics will share the fate of other errors that have sprung up around the great science of medicine, to live a day and perish forever. Especially do I hope that New York will yet rise in her majesty and scourge from her temple those money changers who with impious hands would destroy the sacred instrument, our covenant, our creed, the decalogue of our profession, and that those false teachers who lately gathered about Albany will be amazed and appalled at their own folly and presumption when the ides of June will startle them with the rebuke which awaits them from St. Paul. "Money changers" will be taken, of course in a Pickwickian sense, since the gentlemen who have leaped to the front of philanthropy with "advanced ideas" in advocating the "demands of humanity" and the "interest of a liberal profession" could never think of accepting a fee for such consultation! It may do for Brutus to talk to Cassius about "an itching palm," but in our days—the days of the "demands of humanity"—it must be accepted as a mere play of rhetoric.

I am, my dear Doctor,

Very truly and sincerely your friend,

W. O. BALDWIN, M.D.

—*American Med. Weekly.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATH.

At his residence, Beaverton, on May 15, Alex. McKay, M.D., eldest son of the late James McKay, township of Finch, county of Stormont.