

literary men, the latter of whom, of course, are well paid for their contributions.

The family doctor feels still more aggrieved when the patient whom he sends to the drug store to have a prescription filled comes back sometimes without the prescription, but with a bottle of patent medicine which the storekeeper has told him was much better for his case.

We have often thought that something should be done by the profession to protect itself from the insults heaped upon it in the text of these advertisements, but, according to the *New York Medical Record*, the sale of patent medicines has reached its highest point, and will gradually fall little by little as commercial prosperity returns. He has it on the authority of the editor of a large daily paper that the sale of patent medicines always increases during hard times, for the simple reason that people cannot afford to employ a doctor, or think that it is more economical to prescribe for themselves, and thereby save a doctor's fee. He believes that the great sale of patent medicines is only one indication of the hard times, and as soon as general business revives, the people will again indulge in the luxury of medical advice for minor ailments.

We have on more than one occasion ventured to suggest to our readers that they should accommodate their fees to the requirements of the times, and that when every one is more or less out of employment, or has his wages cut down, it will pay the doctor to reduce his fee in proportion, and to obtain the medicine for his patients at the lowest possible price consistent with quality.

Another thing which might be done to diminish the injury done to the profession by patent medicines would be for the physicians of a city to unite in patronizing a druggist who would undertake not to keep any patent medicines or proprietary articles, or, in other words, not to dispense on his own account, but to limit his business to the filling of physicians' prescriptions only.

MEDICAL ITEMS.

Post Graduate Course in Gynecology.

At the request of a number of practitioners, both in Montreal and in neighboring towns, Dr. Laphorn Smith will, on the 1st of June, begin a post graduate course on the diagnosis and

treatment of gynecological diseases. Only a very limited number will be taken, so that each one may become thoroughly familiar with this department of medicine. Those desiring to join the class should apply early.

We were sorry to learn that Dr. Lockhart was in poor health and had been obliged to relinquish practice for a time in order to take a rest and to recuperate abroad. Accompanied by his wife and her sister, he left a month ago for a trip to the Mediterranean, from which we are glad to learn he is soon about to return much restored in health.

A very successful entertainment was given this month at the Queen's Theatre, in aid of the Samaritan Hospital for Women. Lady Aberdeen came down from Ottawa to attend it, and there were present almost all the leading people of the city, all the boxes as well as every seat in the body of the theatre and the balcony being filled. The result financially was all that could be desired, the receipts amounting to seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Dr. Macphail, who, for some years, has had his office on St. Catherine street, has moved into his fine new residence on Peel street. The Doctor is a general favorite with the profession, and we wish him many years of health and prosperity in his new home.

BOOK NOTICES.

CLINICAL GYNÆCOLOGY, MEDICAL AND SURGICAL. For Students and Practitioners. By Eminent American Teachers. Edited by John M. Keating, M.D., LL.D., and by Henry C. Coe, M.D., M.R.C.S., Professor of Gynæcology, New York Polyclinic. Illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

This, the latest work on gynæcology, was begun under the joint editorship of two of our most brilliant workers; but before it was very far advanced, Dr. Keating died, and the whole of the onerous duties of editing fell upon Dr. Coe. That he has had a remarkable success in accomplishing them is evident from a careful perusal of the book which lies before us. First of all, it is up to date, and those who are keeping abreast of the wonderful advances in gynæcology know what that means; for books that were thoroughly modern three or four years ago are already behind the times now. The next point that impresses us is the ability and high standing of the collaborators. First, there