

The Colorado State Medical Society offers a prize of twenty-five dollars for the best essay, if deemed worthy of the prize, pointing out the dangers to public health and morals, especially to young persons, from quackery as promulgated by public advertisements.

The competition is open to all. Essays must be typewritten in the English language, and submitted before May 15th, 1901. Each essay must be designated by a motto; and accompanied by a sealed envelope, bearing the same motto, and enclosing the name and address of the author. The essay receiving the prize will become the property of the Society for publication. Others will be returned on application. Essays should be sent to the Literature Committee, Room 315 McPhee Building, Denver, Colorado.

The honorary secretary of the New Sydenham Society, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, in a letter published in the English journals, explains that the *raison d'être* of the Society has to a large extent been removed, now that "the supply of medical literature is very liberal, and works of real merit published abroad do not long wait for translation." Consequently it is proposed to issue in the next five years an atlas of clinical medicine, surgery, and pathology, "Pictorial Aids to Diagnosis," fasciculi of from eight to ten plates to be issued every two or three months. To do this the present membership of 1,400 must be increased to at least 2,000. In the event of the necessary number of new subscribers not being forthcoming, it is proposed to expand the society. In the latter event, it is possible that the publication of the atlas will be undertaken independently of it.

An important decision has lately been rendered by the Supreme Court of California with regard to a physician's right to resign a case which he had undertaken. Dr. P. H. Flood, while in attendance upon a lady in confinement, decided that it was necessary to apply instruments, but her screams interfering with his attempts to do so, he finally left the house, against her husband's wishes. The lady sued for, and was awarded, \$2,000 damages in the lower court. On appeal to the Supreme Court, the decision was confirmed, the judge saying—"that a physician may elect whether or not he will give his services to a case, but having entered upon his employment, he is bound to devote to the patient his best skill and attention, and to abandon the case only under one of two conditions. First, when the contract is terminated by the employer, which termination may be made immediately. Second, when it is terminated by the physician, which can be done only after due notice, and an ample opportunity afforded to secure the presence of other medical attendance."