

physician can recoup himself is by securing other patients through the influence of the contract ones. The contract doctor, therefore, does an injustice to himself and an injury to the whole medical profession. When remonstrated with, his reply invariably is, "If I do not do it, another will."

Dr. MacKinnon says the Council ought to stop this practice by legal enactment. This is right. Of late, I have conversed upon this subject with several doctors who have been, and still are, court physicians, and they say, "We hope the Council will stop it; it does not pay us, but if we do not do it, others will." These men are elected, and they know the day is coming when they will certainly be thrown out of office; then they in turn must suffer by this unjust system. If the Council will remedy this evil, they will receive the support of ninety-five per cent. of the profession. They are appointed custodians of our rights, and if they throw themselves into this breach and defend us, they will be upheld and receive the almost united acclaim of the profession.

To-day mechanics, artisans and men of almost every calling are organizing for self-protection, that they may obtain a reasonable recompense for their services, and yet medical men are degrading themselves and their calling by taking patients at a dollar a year, making "hewers of wood and drawers of water," and the veriest slaves of themselves for the benefit of Foresters and others.

Dr. Oronhyatekha says, "The I. O. F. is a fraternal benefit society, which aims to secure for its members certain benefits, among them being *insurance and medical attendance at the lowest possible cost consistent with safety and permanence.*" Every man who is solicited to join the Order has cheap insurance and cheap doctoring held out to him as the two chief inducements. The cheap doctoring comes out of the medical profession, and they, more than any others, are carrying the Order.

Dr. Oronhyatekha says, "No one will deny that the securing of free medical attendance for all our members is a prudent thing to do, so far as the Order is concerned." True; but what about the lodge doctor, who frequently gives as much attendance to one patient in a year as is worth all he gets for the whole lodge? He may well boast that they frequently give "free fuel, free rent and free raiment to their members."

The doctor says, "The competition of the court physician ruins practice," and Dr. Oronhyatekha's rejoinder is: "There is no doubt that it plays havoc with the practice of some physicians, because our court physicians, as a rule, are among the best and most successful practitioners in the country, and their brethren in the Order do not forget to tell this to others." When a doctor joins the Order, he does so, not as a skilful doctor, but as an ordinary member. When he applies for the office of court physician, if legally qualified he is eligible, and it is not the most skilful man, but the most popular man, who is elected. The members recommend him, not because he is skilful, but because he is their court physician. I have nothing to say derogatory of court physicians, but the best men in the country do not accept such positions.

Dr. Oronhyatekha says it is untrue that the members of their Order complain when they employ other than the lodge doctors, and have to pay the ordinary fee. I say it is true in many cases, for I have had Foresters grumble at my charge, when it was moderate, and they wished to gauge it, in a measure, by that of the lodge doctor. Their system gives them a low estimate of the value of the medical man's services.

Dr. MacKinnon suggested that the Council should remove this evil, and Dr. Oronhyatekha says, "Would not the following better meet the worthy doctor's tribulations: 'It is hereby enacted that twenty-five per cent. of the professional income of the young and successful physicians be taken and divided equally among the Rip Van Winkles, whose patients have nearly all been taken away by death or by the young and successful court physicians of I. O. F.''" This is a piece of flippant impudence, and a gratuitous insult to every experienced physician, and a disgrace to Dr. Oronhyatekha. This shaft is aimed at Dr. MacKinnon, but it has fallen far from the mark. He is no Rip Van Winkle, but an energetic, wide-awake man, fully abreast of the times, stands in the vanguard of his profession, and his practice has not been "taken from him by the young and successful court physician of the I. O. F.," for he still holds a large and lucrative practice. He does not divide his time between his profession and the office of Supreme Chief Ranger in the I. O. F. and other offices of inducement in other societies.