

weeks without losing a single patient worth retaining, and with the most beneficial influence on his own health and life, and with great advantage to his clients.

We all know how hale and hearty Sir Henry Holland and Lord Palmerston were at three-score years and ten, and it is a matter of history how hard they worked and how regularly they played.

An editorial in the *London Lancet* for September 16th, under the caption of "A Medical Vocation," is so pregnant with truths and wholesome admonition of paramount importance, not only to the profession at large, but, and especially, to those upon the threshold of its pursuit who are about to cast in their lot with the many young aspirants of utility or fame who already crowd the avenues to that walk of life, and who are continuously waging an unequal strife against circumstances and contingencies which must inevitably predominate over the great majority in the end, that we cannot refrain from, and make no apology for, inserting a large quotation.

"The prizes within reach of the medical profession are not rich, and they fall to the lot of few. An equal amount of labour expended in almost any other department of energy will secure a better return. Looking to the simply worldly rewards of medical industry, it is strange that any well-meaning counsellor should instigate a youth with no particular ambition to distinguish himself in the applied science of physic, to choose the profession of medicine as a career. It cannot be an agreeable occupation to those who discern nothing beyond the daily duties of the physician and surgeon, and it will probably prove so distasteful to the uninspired practitioner as to destroy his chances of even average success. . . . It is impossible to put the case too strongly, and we would ask those upon whom devolves the responsibility of advising or permitting an unwilling or apathetic choice of the profession to look once more around, and at the prospects before them, before it is too late to avoid a false step, which may land the victim of mistake or unwise influences in life-long discomfiture. . . .

"Each year makes the financial success of a

routine practitioner in medicine more improbable, and it is the hope and aim of genuine professors of the science and art of physic and surgery to render this low form of success speedily unattainable. . . . It is not alone that the examination tests are being augmented in severity, a new mode of higher intelligence, and more exacting, is beginning to replace the old method of practice in all its grades and branches.

. . . "Let the friends and advisers of youths about to enter the state of medical pupilage fully recognise the responsibility they are about to thrust upon them. Unfortunately there is no 'noviciate,' and seldom an opportunity of retreat after the choice of a profession, and that to which these young men are devoting themselves is of necessity so exclusive—so fenced about with preliminary branches of study and shut out from view—that, possibly, not one man in a score clearly understands the future to which he is committing himself until some of the best years of his life have been spent in preparation for its practical duties, and in ignorance of its cares, its obligations, and its ever-increasing and heightening responsibilities. It is not only because medicine cannot be advanced by unambitious and unskilled professors, we thus speak, but men entering the profession without enthusiasm and a constraining love of enterprise in science cannot succeed; and their failure brings discredit on our craft, bitter disappointment to minds crippled by a first mistake, while lives are blighted which might have been happy and useful if the beginner had been better advised."

Words of ours can add nothing to this powerful, earnest and spirited appeal to the reason and common sense of those concerned; and we, therefore, send it forth to our readers without further comment than the assurance, to those who are not fully cognizant of the fact, that every word which we have quoted is as applicable to our own condition as to that of the profession in the Motherland—earnestly commending the facts therein set forth to the careful attention and deep reflection of all.

At a meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, on September 21st., the inhalation of 4 or 5 drops of Nitrite of Amyl was strongly recommended as an antidote in Chloroform Narcosis.