

## PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of the Lancet:

DEAR SIR,—The benefit to the profession of your venture in establishing THE MANITOBA LANCET could not be better illustrated than it is by the opportunity it affords me of bringing to the notice of the profession without public notoriety what I consider a gross breach of medical ethics.

I was called to see a woman who had been attended in confinement by Mrs. Suttie, who had neglected to give the ordinary instructions necessary, especially in a *prima para*, and in consequence abraded nipples and severe inflammation of one mamman resulted. I was called in when suppuration appeared imminent, but after two and a half days' persevering treatment the danger had passed. The patient could not speak English, and her husband only very imperfectly. However, he told me that a man who was distantly connected with his wife was from the first wishing to bring in another doctor, and that he had telephoned to Dr. Clarke, a homeopath, who came down and finding I was in attendance, and he had not been called in by the husband, refused to attend. Not satisfied, this officious friend sent for Dr. Good, a gentleman occupying a prominent position as a member of the Manitoba College and on the staff of the Hospital, and from whom the profession would naturally expect an ordinary observance of professional etiquette; but I am sorry to say that he utterly disregarded the fact that I was in attendance, and at the request of an outsider and not of the husband, but against his wishes, took charge of the case and instructed this impertinent interpreter to discharge me. It may be that Dr. Good was to some extent misinformed by this intruder, who assumed to dictate in the household of Mr. Barrett, and from whose assumption of authority the husband

has been obliged to ask for the protection of the police; but living as I do almost next door to the patient, it could have been no trouble to Dr. Good to have called in and asked me about the case. Surely we require protection from unworthy members of our profession as well as from Orvilles.

GEO. T. ORTON.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## YTTRIUM.

Professor Crookes is still pursuing his investigations upon the supposed element yttrium, which seems to be composed of six or seven substances of like chemical properties which can only be separated by an elaborate process. Professor Crookes says that each component part of yttrium is a complete element in itself, but that its molecule is made up of several atoms.

DR. ALFRED CARPENTER announces that carbolic acid is worse than useless as a disinfectant, inasmuch as it preserves disease germs in their vitality.

THE *Deutsche Med. Wochenschrift* reports the case of a tanner who was taken suddenly ill with anorexia, gripping and mental oppression, followed later by a severe epileptic fit. A saline purgative administered to the patient caused the passage of several thousand larvæ, or grubs of flies. Upon their discharge the attack at once ceased and the patient recovered. The journal named considers the case important as placing beyond doubt the possibility of symptomatic epilepsy due to entozoa, which has been disputed; and further, that it demonstrates the danger of the ingestion of cold meats, left where they can be reached by flies. The ova are deposited on the meat; and, unlike the meat, they are not affected by the action of the gastric juices.