

to save the dying ovum and perpetuate the race. The ovum or germ cell, and the spermatozoon, or sperm cell, then, are mutually dependent on each other for their preservation and perpetuation as two in one.

Both the germ cell and the sperm cell are particles of living matter, yet it is only when the one is absorbed by the other, that a human soul is brought into existence. Does the union of these two living cells generate a soul spontaneously, or does each individual cell contain the fragmentary elements of a soul whose only aim and thought is to become united with its opposite complement and become a whole souled being? But let us assume that the ovum possesses a whole soul; then it must follow that it got it while it lay in its little nest in the ovary from the female owner of the ovary. If this be so, does the spermatozoon possess a soul too, or only life? But my contention is, that life is synonymous with soul. Therefore the wedding of the weakling souls of the ovum and spermatozoon gives birth to a strong and vigorous soul endowed with the potentiality and intelligence necessary to incarnate itself in human form.

J. BAUGH, M.D.

Hamilton, July, 1901.

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### HOSPITAL VS. PRACTITIONER.

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*Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER AND REVIEW.*

SIR,—For many years it has been the custom with most hospitals to provide free medical and surgical attendance to the patients who paid \$2.80 for their bed. This is entirely wrong. The hospital should decline to do more than give a bed and hospital attendance to those who are not within its walls in the form of paupers.

A man has a good farm and a large stock. He could not by any means obtain the certificate of his municipality for free hospital maintenance. He goes to some city or town where there is good hospital accommodation and pays \$2.80 a week. This, in many instances, carries with it free medical and surgical attendance. By this means some member of the medical profession is cheated out of his fee. There is not a single argument in favor of such a course.

The only patients that should be regarded as the wards of the hospital are those who come to it as paupers. If a man chooses a cheap bed in a hospital, that is no reason why he should receive free treatment any more than if he took a cheap room in a hotel. When a person goes into a hospital and pays his own way, the arrangement for his medical and surgical treat-