

Miscellaneous.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS.

The New York State Medical Society was called to order at 8 P.M., and the following report of the Committee on the Revision of the Code of Ethics was made the special order of business:—

I.—THE RELATIONS OF PHYSICIANS TO THE PUBLIC.

It is derogatory to the dignity and interests of the profession for physicians to resort to public advertisements, private cards, or hand bills, inviting the attention of individuals affected with particular diseases, publicly offering advice and medicine to the poor without charge, or promising radical cures; or to publish cases or operations in the daily prints, or to suffer such publications to be made; or, through the medium of reporters or interviewers, or otherwise, to permit their opinions on medical and surgical questions to appear in the newspapers; to invite laymen to be present at operations; to boast of cures and remedies; to adduce certificates of skill and success, or to perform other similar acts.

It is equally derogatory to professional character, and opposed to the interests of the profession, for a physician to hold a patent for any surgical instrument or medicine, or to prescribe a secret nostrum, whether the invention or discovery or exclusive property of himself or of others.

It is also reprehensible for physicians to give certificates attesting the efficacy of patented medical or surgical appliances, or of patented, copyrighted, or secret medicines, or of proprietary drugs, medicines, wines, mineral waters, health resorts, etc.

II.—RULES GOVERNING CONSULTATIONS.

Members of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and of the medical societies in affiliation therewith, may meet in consultation legally qualified practitioners of medicine. Emergencies may occur in which all restrictions should, in the judgment of the practitioner, yield to the demands of humanity.

To promote the interests of the medical profession and of the sick, the following rules should be observed in conducting consultations.

The examination of the patient by the consulting physician should be made in the presence of the attending physician, and during such examination no discussion should take place, nor any remark as to diagnosis or treatment be made. When the examination is completed,

the physicians should retire to a room by themselves, and after a statement by the attending physician of the history of the case and of views of its diagnosis and treatment, each of the consulting physicians, beginning with the youngest, should deliver his opinion. If, after arriving at an agreement, it will be the duty of the attending physician to announce the result to the patient, or to some responsible member of the family, and to carry out the plan of treatment agreed upon.

If in the consultation there is found to be an essential difference of opinion as to diagnosis or treatment, the case should be presented to the patient, or some responsible member of the family, as plainly and intelligently as possible, to make such choice and pursue such course as may be thought best.

In case of acute, dangerous, or obscure illness, the consulting physician should continue his visits at such intervals as may be deemed necessary by the patient or his friends, by or by the attending physician.

The utmost punctuality should be observed in the visits of physicians when they are held consultations; but, as professional engagements may interfere or delay one of the physicians, the physician who first arrives should wait his associates a reasonable period, after which the consultation should be considered as postponed to a new appointment. If it is the attending physician who is present, he should, of course, see the patient and prescribe; but if it is the consulting physician, he should, except in an emergency, or when he has been called from a considerable distance, in the latter case he may examine the patient, and give his opinion in writing and under seal, which should be delivered to his associate. — *New Medical Record*.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

On the 13th inst., at 93 Brock Street, the wife of Dr. E. W. Spragge, of a daughter.

At Bracebridge, on February 14th, the wife of W. F. Shaw, M.D., of a son, still-born.

MARRIAGES.

At the residence of the bride's father, on the evening of the 7th inst., by the Rev. J. P. Calder, Rev. J. Cameron, of Iron Mountain City, Mich., the second daughter of E. McRae, Esq., of Lancaster, Ont.

On Thursday, February 16th, at Christ Church, New York, by the Rev. Dr. Shipman, Dr. J. Hunter, to Kate, daughter of R. G. McPherson, Frederick, Md.

DEATHS.

At his residence, 134 Bathurst street, on the 15th inst., Dr. J. P. Lynn, of this city, aged 42 years.

At Bracebridge, Ont., on Friday, February 17th, Mary Eveline Nicol Ritchie, beloved wife of W. F. Shaw, M.D., aged 24 years.