

anything of the medical gentleman who was thus proclaimed from the pulpit "that he was the best doctor" in the city; but we feel convinced that the latter had no part or hand in the matter. It was one of those little excesses which, unfortunately, not a few clergymen are guilty of concerning the medical profession; and we congratulate Dr. Mackintosh upon having the pluck and the courage to denounce him who thus overstepped his position, and the bounds of true propriety.

STRANGE EXORDIUM TO A SERMON—A PARSON
PUFFS A MEDICO.

The following is the substance of remarks made by the Rev. W. H. Poole, in the John Street Wesleyan Methodist Church, on the morning of Sabbath last, 26th of January:

"I have the best doctor in the city. If I had not the best doctor in the city I should change my doctor; and every one that is not satisfied that he has the best doctor in the city should change. And as we should all be as safe in respect to the soul as well as to the body, we should all have the best minister; and if any one is satisfied that he has not the best minister, he should change. My doctor forbade me to preach this morning," etc., etc.

Which extraordinary statement from the pulpit has called forth the following letter from Dr. Mackintosh, who was present:

To the Rev. W. H. Poole.

SIR,—I believe the above to contain the substance of your uncalled-for and extraordinary remarks on this occasion, and as I look upon them as a direct insult to myself specially, as well as to the whole medical profession of the city, except one, I think it my duty, as the only physician present on the occasion, to resent it.

Who your doctor is, I neither know nor do I care; but that you, as a minister of the Gospel, should take advantage of your position in the pulpit, on the Lord's Day, to advertise *any* doctor, shows that you are rash and injudicious, if not vindictive, and your conduct shall not be allowed to go unproved.

I had long since made up my mind that you are not the best minister in the city, and, in accordance with the above suggestion of yours, have determined to change, and now tender my resignation as a member of your Church, and as Missionary Secretary in connection with it, and this after mature deliberation.

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Such being the case, it is a very pertinent question to ask: "If every private and official member of your congregation who is not satisfied that you are 'the best minister in the city,' were to take your advice, how small a congregation would be left?"

As your remarks were made in public, I consider

it my duty to publish the above, that you and your doctor may have the benefit of it.

I am, &c.,

D. MACKINTOSH, M.D., Edin.

Hamilton, 27th Jan., 1873.

The Report of the Supervising Surgeon of the Marine Hospital Service of the United States, for the year ending 30th January, 1872, is now before us, and contains an unusual amount of interesting matter. The several States of the Union issue periodically their reports, and scattered through them we meet with some of the most valuable contributions to medical lore. Its medical reports of the State of New York are illustrative oftentimes of ripe learning on the one hand, and well-directed liberality on the other. The volume before us is of a more general character, and deals with the general marine of our enterprising neighbours. It is interesting to notice the growth in number and importance of marine; and, as an illustration, we may mention that, until seventy years ago, marine hospitals were supported by local funds, these being raised in the shape of a tax of twenty cents per month on "seamen employed in American vessels engaged in the foreign and coasting trades, to be collected by the several collectors of customs;" and, out of the fund thus created, the temporary relief and maintenance of sick and disabled seamen in hospitals should be provided. Norfolk, Virginia and Boston were the first to avail themselves of the privilege the law accorded; and other cities followed their example. But, as the demand for relief always exceeded the resources at hand, and as seamen continued to receive support far short of their requirements, Congress passed an Act in 1837, authorizing a Board of Medical Officers. Marine hospitals are now scattered over the Republic, and fortunate is it that they are under the able surveillance of Dr. John W. Wordworth, the Supervising Surgeon.

The report contains a considerable number of surgical cases, some of which possess interesting features; and, on the whole, the First Annual Report reflects credit on all concerned in its preparation.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

DR. ALFRED NELSON.

It is with regret we record the death of Dr. Alfred Nelson, of this city. For some months previous to his decease he had not felt quite himself; he found himself deficient in strength, and not able to attend to his duties with the same activity he had