

the talk about healing out of Mrs. Eddy's writings, and the later writings and lectures of this cult, there is very little left. If a man has his leg broken and sends for a doctor, and the doctor treats the fracture by prayer, he is none the less practising surgery, but, we fear, trusting to a very poor splint. Indeed, he is dragging the true use of prayer into disgrace. Helpful means must always be employed. The Christian Scientists do practise and charge for their prayers. One of the leading speakers for this group said repeatedly that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." Yes, if the labor is well done! This can hardly be said to be true when the instance is the treatment of diphtheria by the agency of "a paid-for prayer," instead of an injection of antitoxine.

But these "arguments" may have some influence with some, and so the medical men must use their knowledge of true medical science to inculcate correct views into the minds of the members upon all these points. Once more we say "Do not take too much for granted." In this all-important matter the medical profession must cease being "the easy mark."

THE TEMPERANCE ACT.

With the general question of prohibition or non-prohibition we have nothing to do here. What we have to say merely affects the medical men in the carrying out of the Act.

In the first place, we do not think that it is proper that what is to be regarded purely as a medicine, should be kept and sold by laymen. If alcoholic liquors are to be prescribed only for medicinal purposes, they should be found only in the drug stores.

Then we contend that it is wholly wrong to require doctors to reveal the nature of the complaints of their patients. This should not be made public and sent to liquor stores to be seen by clerks and vendors, and commissioners or their agents.

Further, if alcoholic liquors are to be employed solely as medicines, then seven stores for Ontario is not sufficient. This gives about 350,000 persons for each shop. The distances are too great to be of use to the people in the event of urgent need.

But the medical men are put in a humiliating position when they are made the agents of the liquor traffic. It may be taken for granted that doctors are very often asked for orders for alcoholic stimulants by friends and patients when there is no real sickness. These people wish to have some stimulant in their houses. Very many of these requests have to be refused, and, in doing so, the doctors offend their clientele. This should not be the case, and there is no need that it should be so.