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DOCTORS' FEES.

There are no body of men throughout the world who are more charitable in the broadest signification of the term than members of the medical profession, and there are no body of men who are so imposed upon. The subterfuges and dodges for "doing the doctor" are endless—and unfortunately these disgraceful acts are by no means confined to the lower stratas of society. In all classes numerous instances are to be met with. Among the practices pursued in cities where leading members of the profession give their services gratuitously to the poor at various institutions, people moving in good social positions, fairly rich in this world's goods, abuse the physician's generosity by appearing among the pauper patients to secure that advice gratis, which they were well in a position to pay for, and after cheating, for no other term can so well designate this action, return to their carriages, which await them around some contiguous corner, congratulating themselves on saving another guinea. It is well known that the charitable institutions intended for the benefit of those who are unable to pay for competent medical and surgical advice are grossly abused. Many go the rounds of the profession, getting deep into the books of medical men, who will trust them, and transferring their patronage as soon as a

request for a settlement is made, relying on the well-known objection of the profession to use legal means for the recovery of their fees. It is time that this unwritten law should be entirely abrogated and the same proceedings which govern the clergyman in the collection of his tithes, the legal practitioner for the payment of his charges, should be unhesitatingly resorted to by the medical man for the recovery of his well earned fees. The profession are realizing this rapidly and medical debt recovery agencies are established in all the large centres. Many of the profession in this city mourn, not in absolute silence, the comparatively large sums owing them and the scant desire of their debtors to discharge or even liquidate their indebtedness. A medical man is seen driving about and entering many domiciles, eliciting the remark "That fellow must be making piles of money." No doubt he is *booking* a fair sum, in many cases his sole reward, for the expenditure of his time and the exercise of his skill. How many times in the year does the medical man find a patient come to his office, opening fire with the preliminary observation, "Doctor, I am sorry I cannot pay you until—" such and such a day; generally of *next month*; the seeming honesty wins the doctor's heart, and his services are freely given as long as they are required. But, alas; how few are the times when the individual appears at the stated period with all or any of the promised reward, and yet he or she have no qualms of conscience about the matter; their voices sound loudest in church and chapel, self-righteous, like the Pharisee of old, they remember their few good actions and forget their numerous bad ones, including that of "doing the doctor." So numerous have become the adepts at this little game, that in self defence the profession by combined action are