

lives of a thoroughly exhausted woman and child. In the same season, at the end of a walk of eighteen miles, where there was no road, and only a blaze through the forest, a primipara, thirty-eight years of age, and the previously undiscovered victim of cancer of the rectum, was, after being chloroformed, delivered of a child by turning.

On another occasion, an amputation of the leg, also under chloroform and without any skilled assistance, was performed at the end of a lonely journey of thirty miles over a stiff up-grade on a railway velocipede. Journeys of from fifteen to twenty miles on foot after roads and clearings had been left behind were of no infrequent occurrence in the middle hours of the night, without moonlight or lantern or company, and only the stars shining down into the narrow path cut through the forest to keep one from straying into the trackless wilderness. When miles away from any habitation, with none to give needed assistance, and the temperature far below zero, a man practically took his life in his hands. When summer came, and the dread of intense cold removed, all that greeted the midnight practitioner was the hum of millions of the ubiquitous mosquito or the croak of the cheerful frog. This would sometimes be varied by the dismal hooting of a solitary owl or the growl of some prowling black bear. Under such circumstances, could it be wondered at, that in desperation through the want of medical assistance the early settlers occasionally took large chances in their unceremonious handling of dangerous drugs.

Circumstances have happily changed. The pioneer doctor, whose pre-requisite for usefulness was physical strength and resolute self-endurance, has been replaced by the well equipped modern physician, who is within comparatively easy distance of his patient, and who, untrammelled by extra fatigue, is able to give the best product of both mind and body to his unfortunate patient. The district is now filled with young medical men, who are not only thoroughly equipped for their life-work, but many of them have received a liberal education entirely outside of their immediate calling, a goodly number of them being graduates in Arts of their respective universities. Much may be expected of these men who "go forth to war" against accident, pestilence and disease fully prepared for all that may be before them. It is now theirs to command success under reasonable conditions, while the doctor of a quarter of a century ago, experiencing defeat where he should have had success, could only say, by way of unsatisfactory excuse, that he had done what he could.