

Doctors and Their Fees.

AN English physician in the *Lancet* (London), signing himself M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., complains bitterly of the dissatisfaction and discontent which he and other medical men are experiencing because of inability, after years of practice, having previously spent an indefinite time in preparation, to make a living by their profession. He says, also, that the profession is overcrowded, because, among other things, the great aim and object of the medical schools is to get as many students as they can; the prevalence of the dispensary or club system, members paying 2s. 6d. (60 cents) per annum for medicine and advice and the practice of professors and hospital medical men of "whooping it up" to classes without seeming to care, or knowing what will become of them after graduation. We had an idea from what our English cousins have said that America was the only country which had diploma mills with an indefinite capacity for grinding out medical graduates, but here we see the English institutions are addicted to the same practices, and apparently with the same motive. In other words, however high the preaching, the underlying motive of human nature is the same. First pull the mote out of your own eye, brother, then turn the lid up and extract the particle from the eye of your patient.

The dispensary evil here is also an enormous one, and the fact that physicians themselves promote it is one of the wonders of this age, medically. They will deliberately organize a medical charity, and solicit the wealthy to aid them, give their services gratuitously in a specialty, and then complain because some other physician has done the same thing in another direction. The consequence is that thousands of patients who are able to pay something are treated free by physicians who are themselves struggling for existence, because there are organizations sustained by themselves and at their solicitation to destroy the possibility of the very remunerative practice which they are struggling for. Is there another business which does the same thing? Think of plumbers, or tailors, or printers, or any other department of human effort doing such things! Would not the world say of such people: "Why, you are crazy!" And yet doctors do this, and occupy years of preparation to qualify themselves to do it. We are not arguing against charity. Far from it, but there is too much medical charity dispensed among those who can afford to pay.

The physician is worthy of his hire—and he should wake up and protect his financial interests. There is no reason why he should