

on this subject. Whenever the profession will move solidly in the matter, doubtless the Government will be induced to take action. Hoping to see a move made I shall await with pleasure developments.

While the medical profession here and elsewhere are interested in making laws that will place the profession on a higher plane, and providing for repelling quackery with all its attendant evils, we are apt to lose sight of the ethics due from one member to another. That we have quackery and irregular conduct from within is undeniable. How can it be remedied, and what steps should be taken on the advent of interprovincial reciprocity, to cause our members to respect the rights and feelings of one another in this respect? It is no uncommon thing for a young man, on assuming the practice of the profession, to plant himself in the midst of a field occupied by an older practitioner, and if possible ruin the chances of the older man to make a living—as if the goal of ambition was to destroy the practices of men already settled.

The churches are very conservative in guarding the rights and privileges of their settled pastors within certain parishes, and such a thing as a member of the same church planting himself in the midst of an organized congregation would not be tolerated. Under-bidding is frowned down in every other profession; but in the medical profession it appears we have not the organization or *esprit de corps* essential to regulate abuses of this kind. While interprovincial reciprocity may be a very good thing, and facilities should be provided wherewith a man might leave one province for another, yet it must be admitted that in settling in another place the new man may be invading an organized field, well supplied with men who are quite capable and competent to cater to the public demand in a professional respect. The advent of a new man simply adds to the craze or mania which exists in the popular mind for a change, thus dividing the living of one man having a family with two. The world is wide and large enough to provide a living for all, and the *ethics* of the profession should be placed on a healthy basis; the various Councils should have jurisdiction in the matter. The colleges in training men should inculcate sound principles that would help largely

to obviate the necessity of actual interference in this matter. A well-organized profession would consider that it is as important to protect the living of the men already engaged in it as it is to open wide the portals for young men aspiring for the profession. Such a thing as offering *free visits* and only charge for medicines furnished would not be tolerated in a community where ethics was regarded or respected. The struggle for existence may be pleaded as an excuse; but is it wise to overcrowd a profession when such questionable tactics have to be resorted to?

The title of "Doctor" is only rightly assumed by him who has undergone successfully the examination instituted by a legally chartered college or university having power to grant such titles. The public, however, in too many instances regard the quack and pretender with as much faith and respect—in fact, place the scientific man upon the same level with the quack, and are not a bit averse to style the pretender with the title just as freely as the legitimate owner.

Perhaps it would have a beneficial effect upon the public mind to see the profession respect each other—to see unanimity and cordiality in the rank and file of the profession—the spirit of the Golden Rule largely practised by one practitioner towards another, then "Am I my brother's keeper?" would not be sneered at, but the physician would be an educated man, as Chaucer says,

"In all this world ne was ther non him like
To speke of phisike and of surgerie."

I may, in your next issue, deal with some other points concerning the unity of the profession, and their power to stamp out quackery.

Original Communications.

ACUTE GENERAL PERITONITIS; LAPAROTOMY; RECOVERY.*

BY ANGUS M'KINNON, M.D., GUELPH.

M. F., a domestic servant, aged 22, has been from early life a pale-faced girl, never very well, and often complaining of pain in the stomach. Her first menstruation was at the age of nineteen, and it never occurred with regularity. On the night of December 16th, very acute pain suddenly

* Read before Ontario Medical Association, June, 1893.