

Medical Ethics and Cognate Subjects. By JAMES S. SPRAGUE, M.D. Chas. P. Sparling & Co., Publishers, Toronto, 1902.

This is a very interesting book, written by a Canadian "Country Doctor" who was graduated from Victoria University in 1869, and since then has practised in Sterling, County Hastings. The author dedicates it to his patron, Dr. W. B. Geikie, and also to "the venerable names of Hodder, Howell, Aikins, Wright, Ogden, Richardson and Croft, my Masters when a student in the Medical Faculty of Toronto University; to Rolph, Fulton, Sangster, Canniff, Barrick, Berryman and King, my Masters at Victoria University." The author also states that he claims no distinct originality, although he includes twenty or more of his own articles, which have appeared in medical and other journals. The chief value of the book depends on the compilation of admirable excerpts on matters of interest to our profession, taken from the writings of distinguished physicians from the time of Hippocrates down to the present time. The book contains all sorts of aphorisms, many anecdotes, and all sorts of very readable items. The price is only one dollar and a half. All Canadian physicians should have a copy.

Dr. Smiles.

Dr. Smiles, the author of "Self Help," who celebrated the completion of his ninetieth year the other day, was a doctor "by first intention." He was born at Haddington in 1812, and educated at Edinburgh, becoming in due course a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of that city. He practised as a doctor in Haddingtonshire for six years, but his tastes lay in another direction. His opportunity came to him earlier than to most men. He was offered the editorship of the Leeds *Times*, and from the drugery of editorship he rose to be Secretary of the Leeds and Thirks Railway, and afterward of the South-Eastern. He is best known, however, by his books. In addition to "Self Help" he has produced "Lives of George and Robert Stephenson"; "Lives of the Engineers"; "A Life of John Murray"; "Thomas Edward, Scotch Naturalist"; "Robert Dick, Geologist and Botanist"; and a series of works of a homiletic character—Duty, Thrift, Character, Conduct, etc. The publisher to whom Dr. Smiles first offered "Self Help," when the Crimean War was raging, would not look at it. "People won't read anything of this kind," he said. After the book had lain for years on his desk, Dr. Smiles published it at his own expense. It at once became popular. Twenty thousand copies were sold in the first year, and since then its circulation has gone beyond the quarter million mark.—*British Medical Journal*.