

GRATUITOUS PRESCRIBING.—A correspondent asks, "if an unlicensed person who feels disposed can prescribe and give medicines gratuitously without rendering himself amenable to the law?" In reply we would say that the law cannot reach the individual, unless it can be proven that he practices medicine for *hire, gain, or hope of reward*. The law does not contemplate any interference with the liberty of the subject, further than is necessary for the general welfare of the public. Our correspondent seems to think that "all unlicensed persons should be strictly prohibited from giving medicine of any kind, even if they 'give it gratuitously.'" Surely our correspondent does not contemplate prohibiting the mother from administering a dose of castor oil or senna tea to the children, or the kindly neighbor from recommending an infusion of catnip or sage tea to her female friend who thinks she stands in need of it. No law, however carefully framed, could prohibit such a thing, nor would it be expedient to do so. As long as we have people in the world who will stand with their mouths open, ready to swallow any decoction that may be recommended for their relief, just so long will you find persons ready with every sort of remedy, both harmless and otherwise, to meet the exigencies of the case. As a general thing, when persons become seriously ill they are not long in sending for a medical man, either licensed or unlicensed, and neither will be disposed to attend the patient for any great length of time without the hope of being rewarded in some way or other, and the manner of the reward will not be long in being discovered. It will then be a matter of no great difficulty to proceed against the unlicensed practitioner for a violation of the Act relating to the practice of medicine.

A CLEVER DODGE.—The following method of raising money, although not altogether new is worthy of notice :

Dear Sir,—Passing through Seaforth the other day on my return from a professional visit, I happened to pass you a couple of times on the street and as I have frequently had occasion to do before on other occasions, I noticed that your physical condition is very poor. On account of the long experience I have had in such matters, I do not often make a mistake in singling out at first glance a victim of youthful error, many of whom I have been the humble instrument of rescuing from a

premature grave. If you doubt my statements I can give you ample proof of their truth, and if I can use my skill and experience in restoring you to your health I shall be only too glad to avail myself of the opportunity, as you are not yet beyond the power of cure. Delay however is dangerous, and as I guarantee to cure, you cannot do better than consult me. As my time is at present very much occupied, I cannot in no case answer a letter professionally unless it is accompanied by one dollar. Do not delay in communicating with

J. FENCALL.

Toronto, Feb. 6th, 1880.

TORONTO EYE AND EAR DISPENSARY.—The Directors of the above institution have just issued the report for 1879. The institution has been carried on exclusively as a dispensary during the last six months of the year, and the result has been most satisfactory. During that time 184 patients were under treatment, and an average of 24 patients constantly under treatment. The directors recommend the continuance of the work.

A NEW NOSE.—The operation for restoring a lost nose has been recently successfully performed in the Bellevue Hospital, New York. The middle finger of the right hand was used to supply the needed tissue. The nail was removed and matrix destroyed, after which an incision was made along the palmar surface of the finger and the skin dissected back on either side. The flaps were then united to the sides of the nasal openings by fine sutures and the hand firmly bound to the face by plaster of Paris bandages; after union has taken place the finger will be amputated, and the new nose fashioned into proper shape.

A REAL HYGEIOPOLIS.—It appears from reports given by Dr. W. Myers, surgeon to H. M. S. *Centaur*, that Wen-chow, in China, a newly opened port on the east side, is an actual "Hygeiopolis," *a la* Dr. W. B. Richardson, of London. He says that all the main and pleasant features of "Hygeiopolis" above ground are to be found in Wen-chow. The *London Lancet*, in alluding to it, says, "that this resemblance leaves no choice to the Health section of the Social Science Association, but to visit the place, with Dr. Richardson as President."

THE AUDIPHONE.—This instrument, which is an invention by Mr. Rhodes, of Chicago, has been found of great value in enabling deaf persons to