

be applicable not merely to persons in dwellings, institutions, and the like places, but also to those frequenting workshops and places of public resort."

Rich Out-Patients in Paris.

Members of the medical profession in Paris are up in arms against the hospital authorities for an alleged public abuse, which consists in allowing rich patients to be attended, to the detriment of the poor and the serious loss of practitioners. The *Syndicat des Médecins* has presented a formal protest to the authorities. The principal grievance is that patients who can very well afford to be attended in their houses now prefer to go to the hospital as paying patients, and for a ridiculously small fee they obtain surgical or medical aid to which only the poor are entitled. The physicians state that in former times the rich considered it humiliating to be attended in the hospitals. The members of their families would have had conscientious scruples about confiding them to strange nurses. Heavy sacrifices were made to keep the sick or invalids at their own homes, and have them attended by their own physician. Nowadays they allege it is quite common to hear of persons in easy circumstances, who live in magnificent flats and occupy prominent positions, going to the hospitals when the slightest thing is the matter with them. They go there, a fortiori, when it is a question of having an operation. For five or ten francs a day they get all the attendance they require, and the services of the best physicians or surgeons. With a few tips here and there to the nurses, infirmarians, and general servants, they are made as comfortable as could be at an outlay which is ridiculous compared with their means. They thus obtain for a few hundred francs, or even less, a treatment

for which they could readily afford to pay.

Doctors in the Paris hospitals report typical cases. One of them says that for some time past they noticed that hospitals had become a sort of rendezvous of the "monde élégant" and the "haute bourgeoisie." Number So-and-So, for instance—all patients have a number—is the proprietor of a large and prosperous hotel in the north. Some of his traveller guests had told him of the excellent attention they had received at the hospital. He took the opportunity to come to town and have himself treated at the same institution. In the morning he was at the consultation with the poor, and in the evening regularly went to the theatres with his wife. Number So-and-So is a shopkeeper, who has an extensive trade. He had himself treated for a fracture of the nasal bone. He could not come to the consultation the following day because he had arranged to go with his family to the seaside. The same doctor gives other instances of persons who, after they had come to the consultations at the hospital, and by paying discreet tips had their turn ahead of the numerous poor, went to the summer resorts for a cure. One man, so as to deceive the staff, had come in a workman's blouse. But under it the physician detected fine clothing, and on inquiry it was learned that the man was a rich manufacturer employing hundreds of hands. A retired dealer who had made a fortune assumed the name of one of his delivery men, and also came to the hospital in workman's clothes. A lady living in the provinces on a large income came to Paris and stayed with her cousin, but to obtain free treatment at the hospital for her daughter she dressed her up in the maid's clothes. No wonder some members of the medical profession are becoming indignant.