

LODGE PRACTICE.

We are glad to see the interest with which the question of lodge practice, and practice by contract, is being discussed in our medical papers, and the unanimity with which these modes of practice are condemned. It is a question of great importance to every active medical man, one on which everyone must come to a decision, and we are confident that with scarcely an exception the decision would be against the whole system if the case stood merely on its merits. The principle on which it is based is an utterly false one. It is not that of "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work," but a minimum of remuneration for an indefinite amount of work.

One severe case of typhoid, for example, would often cover the full sum received from a lodge of seventy-five members for a whole year. Medical men give their services for charity's sweet sake more abundantly than any other class or profession, and that with a readiness and cheerfulness and actual pleasure begotten of their generous love of helping a fellow being in distress. But all the less is there a claim on them to throw a mantle of what is in a large degree charity, over all sorts and conditions of men able to pay for the services rendered them. It is not merely that the lodge physician gives away his own services for a mere trifle, but he honeycombs the practice of his confrères for a petty fee, and thus deprives them of what would otherwise be theirs.

He makes himself cheap and places himself at the beck and call of a "brother," who shows his brotherliness by summoning him on every occasion, convenient or otherwise, however trifling his indisposition. The other day a lodge member summoned his physician to his bedside between five and six a.m. His great toe-nail was hurting him and he wished it attended to before he went to his day's work. The doctor's indignation was curbed, by the fear of losing a vote at the next election. He loses his independence, and in the end has the consolation of losing his position because he failed to visit a sick member as often as the latter thought necessary. Again, no man will continue to do justice, either to himself or his patients, when he knows that he is giving his services for far less than they merit, and when the motive in thus

rendering himself cheap is that he may, in the course of time, gain the family practice from the hands of a brother practitioner, his action is almost on a par with that of him of whom we were recently told that he begged to be allowed to attend for nothing a case of *a recurrent type* to show his expertness, with the hope, of course, of being a *leading actor in all future occasions of the kind*. Another objectionable feature is, that to retain his hold, the medical man must dance attendance on lodge meetings about two nights a month for every society to which he belongs, and so wastes valuable time that ought rather to be spent among his books, cultivating those habits of study that are so easily lost. If he does choose this better part, his "brothers" think he has lost interest in the success of the lodge, and soon some more genial individual with a "hail fellow well met" style is brought on the scene and made the recipient of the lodge's favour.

Such a state of things should cease, and that at an early date, but the desired end can only be reached by unanimity among our profession. At present one man admits the practice, in self defence, because his neighbour does. It should be made a live question at all medical society meetings and the support of all enlisted. Then at the next Ontario Medical Association Meeting the subject might be thoroughly treated and handed over to the Council for action. If societies and associations, of whatever kind, desire to cooperate in providing medical attendance for their members, there need be no objection. Indeed it is well that they should do so. But let them pay the regular fees for the attendance given, and each man choose his own physician.

DISCIPLINE.

The Committee on Discipline of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, composed of Dr. H. P. Day, Belleville, Chairman; Dr. Logan Ottawa, and Dr. Bray, Chatham, held a meeting in London on Tuesday, November 5th. The charges investigated then were those preferred against Dr. T. R. McCullough, of Enniskillen. The evidence presented was well sifted and shaped for report.

The session was continued in the Council building here on December 6th. The culprits whose