

"A METHOD OF INTRODUCING AND HASTENING PROFESSIONAL DEGRADATION."

ONE must thank the *Philadelphia Medical Journal* for suggesting such an appropriate title with which to designate the sin of paying commissions for patients. It appears that in the United States this is a growing evil; in this country, too, from time to time, one hears of some professional (?) brother who pays a commission to some general practitioner because the one has sent the other a patient from whom he has been able to collect a fat fee. Truly, this is bringing down our professional standing to the lowest possible business basis. For is it not this very thing that we condemn when it secures a franchise for a large corporation, or gets a paving contract for the worst kind of pavement? The result in municipal business has been to make in the public mind the term "alderman" synonymous almost with "corruptionist." There is such an undercurrent of feeling in this direction that many of our best business men refuse to seek municipal honors because of the associations. If this sort of thing which is creeping into our profession ever gets its legs and is allowed to walk, our standing as a profession is gone, and in the public mind the term "specialist" will become a synonym for "quack." Naturally, under such circumstances, the specialist who will pay the largest commissions will get the most patients, irrespective of merit. We may then expect to see, when the would-be brilliant surgeon sends out his annual circular, a foot-note to the effect that on patients sent during the first three months a commission of fifty per cent. will be allowed, the amount of the commission gradually reducing according to the delay upon the part of the general practitioner in sending his grist to the mill. Truly such would be a sad state of affairs, and one could look with certainty for an increased mortality.

F. N. G. S.

TYPEWRITTEN PRESCRIPTIONS.

WE notice in our French and English exchanges that some attention is being paid to the use of typewriting machines by physicians in Europe. Mr. Labouchere, editor of *Truth*, has, in fact, organized quite a press campaign in favor of the view that physicians should be obliged to typograph their prescriptions. For one reason or