

How this difficulty is to be met it is hard to determine ; but some effectual check should be placed on a custom so fraudulent in character. As a rule, before admittance is granted to a free ward, a certificate is required from a clergyman or other reliable citizen to the effect that the case is one deserving charitable consideration ; and, it seems to me that, were such a law extended so as to include those seeking out-door advice or attendance, the evil would be much mitigated. It is, of course, understood that exceptions would be made in cases of emergency and amongst those who are utter strangers in the municipality. I would suggest that a representative committee be appointed whose duty would be to make full inquiry as to the best method of minimizing these impositions and with instructions to report to this association at its next annual meeting.

My immediate predecessor denounced in forceful language the universal existence of lodge attendance ; I can only emphasize the remarks that fell from his lips. To contract work, on the ground of principle, none could fairly take serious exception, provided always that the contract price is fully commensurate with the value of the work done ; but to bring about such a condition of things will be accomplished only when the dignity of the profession rises superior to that which is accounted merely expedient ; for, so long as medical men are willing to accept the beggarly pittance of one hundred and fifty dollars a year or less for looking after the health of a hundred members of some lodge or other, with the hope of securing thereby professional entree into their family circles, just so long will this financial snap prove to be one of the strongest drawing cards in the hands of fraternal societies.

I do not feel free to denounce the individual transgressor to the lowest depths—the custom is everywhere ; and often, contrary to his nature, for self-protection he is forced into this objectionable line of work. Still, after all, it is at best the same old lame excuse : ‘If I don’t do it, others will.’ With all my heart and soul I stigmatize the system as a rotten plank in the platform of gentlemanly dignity and independence.

We have, in this country of ours, an array of medical men and a galaxy of schools of medicine and surgery that would be a credit to any land under the sun. For all that, one is forced to lament the fact that, in a certain sense, their light may be hidden under a bushel. I refer particularly to the non-production of home-made medical literature. Thirty or forty years ago our special knowledge was derived from the writings of men in the mother land ;