

Blackstone has stated it to be the established law of England that a counsellor cannot sustain a suit for his fees, and it has also been frequently decided that a physician cannot recover any compensation for his services, and was generally expected to take whatever was voluntarily given to him. These theoretical dogmas were deduced from an age that permitted their adoption, and although the principle of an honorarium finds support in England, it finds no support in American or Canadian law. It is now pretty well conceded that men devote their time and energies for the emolument and gain attached to the practice, or, in other words, that it is unreasonable and unjust to expect men to devote a long course in preparation and study, and then the persistent trials and daily fatigues of professional practice, without being rewarded therefor. Since the lawyers manage to get their fees, it would be exceedingly unjust to argue that a physician had no right to his.

Every registered practitioner, at least, can now maintain an action for his fees. It will be his own fault if he cannot recover his own valuation of his services. All he has to do is to acquaint and make known to his patient or employer in advance what his charge is before the services are rendered, and no court, presided over by a judge possessing honour and justice, will refuse the physician or surgeon a verdict. Medical men in their eagerness to get work, allow the services to be performed first and then send their bill years afterwards. Disputes then arise—perhaps encouraged by a neighbouring practitioner in order to aid his own grist—but chickens very often come home to roost to such an individual. If medical men as a rule are poor and their families suffering for want, it is because the profession as a whole are not united in their views and practice. There should be no underbidding, it is mean, disgraceful and dishonourable, there should be no resort or appeal to prejudices even for the sake of spreading one's fame. Strict business principles and habits are required to make the practice of medicine a success financially. Of course it is understood or supposed that he also possesses the ability to practise and do it on honourable lines. As a diversity of talent exists among masters, the law will uphold a talented and eminent practitioner's claims to larger fees and

assert his right thereto whenever disputed. Eminent authorities in law uphold this view. While everyone may not attain to great eminence, still ordinary skill is required of all, and the principles of law governing medical practice and its rights should be well understood by everyone engaged in the practice of medicine. Every account should be specific, and not general, in its charges. The right of medical men to professional fees in the County Courts of this Province is not recognized. This is wrong; and members of our profession when called to give evidence on any matter involving an opinion, should refuse on the witness stand to give their evidence until the court or parties calling them agrees first to reward them. A determined and united stand would soon cause the Legislature to enact a law recognizing a different fee than thirty cents per diem for a professional man. We solicit the views and opinions of our professional brethren in this Province on the subject.

Original Communications.

A BLOODLESS OPERATION FOR HÆMORRHOIDS.*

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As hæmorrhoidal diseases of the rectum and anus are very common, and often lead to grave disturbances of the whole system, any line of treatment which will relieve or wholly subdue them, without any serious inconvenience or danger to life, will be welcomed by the profession.

At the beginning, it may be well to consider for a moment what we understand by the term hæmorrhoids. From the etymology of the word, we expect to find blood tumours: but, in strict truth, in very many cases of so-called hæmorrhoids or piles, the vascular system is totally devoid of any implication whatever, the small neoplastic formations which present themselves along the base, annular rim or roof of the anus and rectum being, histologically, purely adenoid, papillomatous, or vegetative. It is important that the anatomical distinction be made clear in this instance, for the treatment about to be commended applies espe-

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