

made to understand that if they are the recipients of gratuitous advice the fact will be known to those interested. The more the profession protects itself the better will it be appreciated, and if the persons who thus act were known, it would save many a thankless visit and much time. It would make such characters aware that Medical men are not so ready to run at every call, which at present seems to be the case, probably, I suppose, from being ignorant of the history of the party sending for them. Such a list would not be difficult to compile, if each would only take the trouble to furnish a list with additions semi-annually, and there is no doubt but that the profession would profit by it. A VICTIM.

Montreal, October 20th, 1873.

### Progress of Medical Science.

#### LONDON LETTER.

Thousand-Guinea Fees—A Brilliant Career—Sir Henry Thompson—An Incident.

The Highland holiday of our London physicians and surgeons has been interrupted by an incident productive of some rather curious illustrations of professional practice and feeling. A very well-known and wealthy man, who has many friends and personal acquaintances among consulting practitioners in London, was seized with a very severe illness at his hunting-lodge. His friend, Sir Henry Thompson, was near at hand, and was summoned. He came over at once, and, finding his friend dangerously ill, was fain to stay with him in his time of need, and began a close attendance, which lasted for nine days and nights. He was offered, on resigning the case to Sir William Jenner, who was summoned by telegraph, a check for a thousand guineas, but steadfastly refused to take any fee whatever, alleging that he had attended solely as a friend and would not otherwise have undertaken a case of the kind. This is the second time during a few months that the same surgeon has returned a check for a thousand guineas from motives of delicacy. I have mentioned in a previous letter that, knowing that the family of the ex-Emperor Napoleon were not in possession of large means, he returned a fee of a thousand guineas in that case. It is not often that the same surgeon receives fees so large as to afford the opportunity of dealing with them in a manner so splendidly liberal and delicate, and perhaps it is as rare that he should insist upon doing so. But Sir Henry Thompson is in receipt of an exceptionally large income from the successful practice of his profession, and he is a man of great decision, clearness, and liberality of mind. He is a man who has reason to be satisfied with his career, and of whom we in England have reason to be proud. Commencing the study of surgery rather late in life, and not graduating, I believe, till the age of thirty, he has by the sheer force of intellect and work won his way to the highest eminence and success in practice, to a fine fortune, a splendid social

position, and a world-wide reputation. He is still a young man, and his career has been brilliant. Nor has it involved sacrifice of other pleasures and pursuits. He is an artist of high attainments,—perhaps the best amateur in oil painting in England; his pictures are not only well hung at the most difficult and eminent of our exhibitions,—the Royal Academy,—but command a fair market price against those of professional artists, when he is disposed to part with any of them. He is an excellent writer, and a man of thoughtful habit on other than medical subjects; his paper in the *Contemporary Review* on the Efficacy of Prayer, addressed to Professor Tyndell, opened up the controversy of which the echoes reached your continent; and he has all the other accomplishments, as a sportsman, ect., which suit the character of an English gentleman. This brief outline of the elements of a singularly successful character and career is only noteworthy as affording encouragement to others, and furnishing the materials for contemporary history.—*Correspondence of the Philadelphia Medical Times.*

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE DOCTORS.

Mr. Gladstone was a guest at the recent dinner of the British Medical Association. In acknowledging the compliment of a toast to "Her Majesty's Ministers," Mr. Gladstone paid a high but not undeserved tribute to the medical profession. He said that but for the care and watchfulness of a succession of able physicians it would have been impossible far him to have gone through the fatigues of political life. "It is," he proceeded, "among the mournful and noble distinctions of your illustrious profession that, although its members may not receive that acknowledgment which awaits the soldier when he falls on the battle-field, yet they are to be found in countless numbers among the truest martyrs in the cause of humanity." He complimented the practitioners of the medical art on their high claims to consideration for their promotion of beneficial sanitary legislation. He said that medical knowledge has advanced in recent years in a degree which is not, perhaps, paralleled in any other profession. There is at the present day "a greater and more sustained earnestness of purpose, and a more general exaltation of the aims of medical men."

Mr. Gladstone said in conclusion, "This age is distinguished by an unbounded activity in all the sciences of observation. Of all those sciences yours is the noblest. It is given to you to study the relations between the wonderful body and the still more wonderful soul and mind of man. You tread that border land in which the two come in contact. It is very easy to describe the post-office or the railway system, but you have to deal with a thing far more subtle when you attempt to grasp human nature as a whole. Human progress is not to be described by formularies. It is only by the most patient observation that a sound and comprehensive knowledge on such a subject can be acquired. To you it belongs to seize the great opportunities and to accept the great responsibilities which attach to the profession."