

that will show at a glance whether John B—— or Adam C—— is coming so often for a quart as to prove that it is not being used medically and the matter would be settled. The average physician is, I believe, conscientious and disinclined to profit by the weakness of his neighbor, but it is hard to give offence by refusing to make the prescription for a quart when the law allows it and the physician may award it. Hoping to see some plan evolved that will relieve us of such troubles as outlined.

J. S. McCULLOUGH.

ADVANCES IN SURGERY.

Writing in *The Illustrated London News* of the wonders of modern surgery, which dates from the introduction of anæsthetics, E. F. Osborn says:—

“It is not easy nowadays to realize the horrors of hospital practice when every movement of the surgeon’s knife severed the patient’s soul as well as his body. Professor George Wilson, the second patient on whom the famous Syme performed his operation of amputation at the ankle joint (first carried out in 1842), has left on record his emotions during the ordeal. ‘During the operation,’ wrote Wilson, ‘I watched all the surgeons did with a fascinated curiosity. Of the agony it occasioned I will say nothing. Suffering so great as I underwent cannot be expressed in words, and thus, fortunately, cannot be recalled. The particular pangs are now forgotten; but the black whirlwind of emotion, the horror of great darkness, and the sense of desertion by God and man, bordering close on despair, which swept through my mind and overwhelmed my heart, I can never forget, however gladly I would do so.’ Time was torture then, and the long, deliberate operations of to-day were impracticable.

WONDERFUL PROGRESS MADE.

“To-day the surgeon can carry out the most complicated example of ‘reconstructive surgery’ with the deliberate carefulness of a chess player, and he can be sure that the wounds will heal healthily without matter forming to destroy his artistic handiwork. And the present war has so vastly increased his opportunities and experience that he can now accomplish feats of physical reconstruction that were utterly undreamed of in peace time. Nobody who knows the progress made by surgery on every scientific front in the last four years is likely to chal-