

sicians of the age to take so deep an interest as they now do in the matter of Public Health, in Preventive Medicine? Were the motives selfish which induced the Medical Council at its last meeting to pass a resolution urging upon the Government the advisability of some legislation by means of which disease might be largely prevented, by means of which people might be forced to use means to preserve the public health? We leave these questions for those to answer who uphold the Charlatan and Empiric. Said Dr. Lyon Playfair recently, on the occasion of a public ceremony in King's College, London, "Can there be an example of more unselfish labor than the effort of a medical man to extirpate disease, on the existence of which his daily bread depends?"

The *Globe*, it appears, would grant a free licence to practice the healing art to any one and every one possessed of sufficient "cheek" and dishonesty to "pick up" the art and use it as a means of gulling his fellow-creatures. It would admit the most ignorant pretender to the bed-side to act the part of physician to an almost dying man, in whom the thread of life might be broken by the most trifling error—as by giving or withholding a medicine; it would admit the ignorant pretender, or the equally ignorant though sympathizing friend, as physician to the bed-side of the parturient woman, where two lives might hang upon a thread, which ignorance might snap, but which knowledge might preserve unbroken. Once, and thank God only once, it was our lot to be an eye-witness to the horrifying results of nescience on occasion like this. There was the widowed, horror-stricken husband and father, the half dozen, five or six motherless children, and the bodies of the mother and infant yet warm but dead, after suffering for thirty odd hours pangs worse perhaps than death, through the ignorance and obstinacy of an "experienced" midwife, who had not, however, sufficient knowledge to enable her to judge when more skilful aid was needed, until too late. Here, with the exercise of moderate knowledge all would in all probability have been well.

Medical men are the guardians of the public health and of life,