Miscellaneous.

Weakness Not Goodness.

URIAH HEEP was not an humble man. His conceit merely took an unusual way of displaying itself. So, there is a great deal of "goodness" in the world which is nothing but weakness. Genuine goodness is not a passive quality. The man who submits to injury rather than make an effort at retaliation, is not a good man, he is lazy and a cowardly.

The idea that it is man's duty to submit cheerfully to imposition, yea, even go half way to meet it, has done a great deal of harm. The do-nothing policy is the line of least resistance, and when man is glorified for it, it becomes doubly attractive.

All forms of charity, except the emergency kind, are species of imposition. The Doctor is the most preyed upon of all men. This is largely his own fault. He has educated the public to believe that it is his duty to furnish the necessary knowledge and skill when disease occurs, and that pay is altogether a secondary consideration.

The Doctor is now suffering, as all men must suffer who neglect their own interests. Nature provides no special Providences to reward this sort of goodness. She calls things by their right name, and smartly punishes carelessness.

If a grocer were called upon to furnish the needy with articles of food, his first inquiry would be as to who would settle the bill. It is difficult to get the Doctor to present one within a reasonable time after services rendered. Small wonder that people think it unnecessary to pay so indifferent a creditor! It is taken for granted that a man will look out for his own end of a bargain.

The Doctor's charity list is a large one and it represents: Real goodness and kindness of heart one-fourth; neglect, carelessness, procrastination and unbusiness-like methods, three-fourths. Such a list shows that he is indifferent alike to the true interests of himself, his profession and those who employ him.

System and order in the business end of the profession is by no means incompatible with the scientific study. Mail each and every one of your patrons a statement of account the first of every month. Give them a chance to be honest and self-respecting. If any take offense at your assuming they possess these desirable qualities, you are