

by some regularly qualified practitioners for professional work. The term professional charge is hardly the proper one to use—price would be a better word to apply to the money paid for such jobs. No doubt many a young physician, struggling with pecuniary difficulties would be glad to gain a hold in his community by charging fifty cents for an office consultation did not the *esprit de corps*, properly belonging to the profession, prevent him from stooping to such means to establish a practice. There might be some excuse for such action in the case of a man struggling for existence, with whom it is fifty cents or nothing. But what shall we say of men well-endowed with this world's goods, who for the sake of increasing their popularity with a certain class, do a regular office practice at fifty cents a consultation, and *throw the medicine in*. Is not this a system of advertising more pernicious than the method of the man who says: "I shall put my name in the dailies, I shall put up all the signs I choose, I shall advertise myself openly, and what are you going to do about it?"

It is pretty generally admitted that no members of the community do more charitable work than medical men, but if they work for charity, then for any sake let it be called charity, and do not let the charge be lessened. If a man choose to pay visits, or give advice gratis surely he has a perfect right to do so, just as much right as has a grocer to give away packages of tea, or a dry goods merchant to present pieces of flannel to the poor of his neighborhood. But when a bill is paid let the patient understand fully that he is paying for say only one half the visits, and that the Dr. presents the rest of the bill. This will protect other members of the profession, who may not have the inclination to do much work for charity, and at the same time tend to keep up a certain amount of respect for professional services in the eyes of the poorer classes. Perhaps some of the fifty cent men consider themselves sufficiently paid at fifty cents a consultation, *medicine thrown in*. No doubt the advice is in such cases nearly as watery as the medicine, and the patient is not much the gainer after all. This "medicine thrown in" sounds very like the "prize in each and every package" cry which we hear from the mouths of touters of candy packages, etc., at the doors of booths in a circus ground.

Naturalists tell us they are undecided whether it is the sense of sight or smell, which guides the turkey buzzard to the spot where the carcass lies. The bird may not have been seen in the vicinity for days, but let an animal die and be drawn out to the fields, and lo! they appear from the north, south, east and west, as if coming from the clouds. These same students of nature would be equally puzzled to explain how certain members of the *genus medicus* find their way to the scene of an accident. Explanation is difficult, but true it is that some men seem to scent an accident in the air, and localize it with unerring precision. They come as if from the clouds, but are sufficiently material to make themselves well-known to the reporter and bystanders. They have even been known to suggest to the medical man of the family when a consultation would suit them etc. Then there is the society advertising dodge, so well known, by which the Dr. makes himself agreeable to so many mammas, the "lodge" advertisement and others too numerous to mention. If we allow ourselves to moralize on the subject, and to ask why such a state of affairs should exist, we are met by numerous difficulties. Is it because the profession is sadly overcrowded? The answer is, not more than that of the law, and yet we do not hear of the same heartburnings among the members of that profession. The medical student is regarded by the ordinary lay mind as a being rather outside the pale of common decency, but as soon as he can sign himself M.D., and has begun practice all this is changed, he then takes his place as a respectable citizen, and by common consent is at least as good as his cousin the lawyer, and it cannot therefore be any inherent badness that makes the M.D. prey upon his brother's flock.

The question will in all probability remain unanswered, but we should be greatly gratified if some of the fifty cent consultation men, and twenty-five cent vaccination men would give us some explanation why they pursue a policy which lowers them in the eyes of their patients, makes bad blood between members of the profession, and eventually keeps money out of their own pockets.

A NEW HYPNOTIC.

A new hypnotic has been brought forward by Drs. Dujardin-Beaumetz and Bordet. The name