

seeing a number of well-dressed ladies waiting their turn to get fitted or to get advice on their glasses. The same town had six or eight capable physicians, some of whom were probably making a bare livelihood, but the veterinarian doctor of refraction was reputed rich and daily getting richer. It seems to us that the only way to get rid of this plague of refracting doctors and peripatetic spectacle pedlars, is for every medical man to consider that a set of testing glasses and an ophthalmoscope are equally essential in his armamentarium as stethoscopes, thermometers, etc. And, indeed, as sanitary scientists and medical publicists, we owe it to the community to protect them from injury to sight just as much as from the infection of smallpox, diphtheria or scarlet fever. The hernia specialist and the refracting optician are the two great parasites of the medical profession. They live and thrive because we fail to brush them off.

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

It should be a matter of great gratification to the people of this city and province, and perhaps more particularly to the medical portion of the same, to note with what general appreciation the idea of a new and larger General Hospital has been received. Perhaps it were more conservative to say there has been little opposition to the proposed scheme. A very able article in *Toronto Saturday Night*, on the 5th inst., is specially worthy of note in this regard. In this splendid article, the writer (evidently himself in fullest accord with the proposition) says in part: "Dr. Sheard, the capable Medical Health Officer of this city, who is probably more of a cynic than a zealot, and has a greater tendency toward being a humorist than a sectarian, may have been misunderstood by the interviewer, but if not, he has thrown a wet and frosty blanket on the whole scheme." He then proceeds to give in full the Doctor's remarks as published recently in one of our daily papers, the closing paragraph of which is as follows:

"If we are to have a General Hospital in connection with the University, and if we are to have the clinical advantages desirable, we will have to obtain them in some other way than by the city making a grant of \$100,000, unless the Council is prepared to treat all our hospitals alike. If this can be done, then the