

of this city, who thus pledged themselves to the adoption of its rates. These fees were such as had been charged in this city by all respectable physicians for the last 50 years. The public grumbled of course when they were published, although it had unmurmuringly submitted to them, for that long, or even a longer period of time. Hence the folly of having disturbed such blissful ignorance. With that, however, I do not intend to meddle, but it seems to me an extraordinary circumstance that medical men, who therein emphatically pledged themselves to each other, should have subsequently deviated from their plain and honest course of action, and have attended, even cases of midwifery, for fees less far than have been charged by a veterinary surgeon for the delivery of a mare or a cow, those fees usually being from 10s. to 20s. This analogy was forcibly brought to my mind the other day, when a patient of mine of old standing, came to advise me of his wife's early accouchement, and wished to know my fee for attendance. It was a 2nd class case, the fee for which was placed at £3, but aware of the pecuniary difficulties of the party alluded to, I offered my services for £2. He then told me that Dr. ———, who enjoys a large practice in the Quebec Suburbs, had attended his partner's wife for £1, including subsequent visits. He urged the acceptance of that fee, which I respectfully declined, expressing to him the sincere desire which I felt not to be ranked exactly on the same level with the veterinary surgeon or the midwife. I furthermore informed him that I was not responsible for the value which Dr. ——— placed upon his professional skill, but that if such was really his fee, ordinarily exacted under such circumstances, he probably estimated his services at their intrinsic value. This reminds me of another circumstance connected with the same party :

Last winter I was requested by the mother of a lady, whom I had twice attended, to state the fee which I ordinarily expected in first class cases, I mentioned the sum of £5. On demanding her reason for this enquiry, I ascertained that the question had been put at the request of the wife of a gentleman connected with one of the military departments in this city, who had been on a previous occasion attended by this same practitioner, his charge having been £1. The gentleman was fully able to pay the fee of £5, and most unquestionably would have been charged by Mr. Mason, V. S., 20s. for the delivery of his mare or cow. I need not say that this lady has again selected Dr. ———, whose chief recommendation seems to consist in the *lowness* of his charges. I am informed that the same practitioner does not scruple to accept of 10s. or even less, and that he has done so on more than one occasion.

I avoid, Mr. Editor, the party's names, but they are at your service if you wish them. My only motive in writing, is to expose a violated pledge, and denounce a practice derogatory to the dignity of our pro-