

sometimes exorbitant and it seems to me that in some cases in the country to the south the surgeon has been out for spoil. Fees as large as \$25,000 and more have been charged, basing the charge on the income of the patient. Now, I have always felt that this was commercializing the profession and that no operation was worth such an amount, a fair and reasonable fee up to \$1,000 for the rich and a graduation downwards for those less able to pay seems to me fair, and I personally have no regrets in my past career as to excessive charges. I know of cases where the patient, or the husband, has had to sell household goods to pay the surgeon. Such things should not be and surgeons before long will have, if they have not already acquired it, the reputation of lawyers. A lawyer is described by Lord Brougham as, "A legal gentleman who rescues your estate from your enemies and keeps it for himself." I am well aware that many times the surgeon is underpaid, or not paid at all, but that is no excuse for the use of Robin Hood methods.

The multiplication of medical journals, good, bad, and indifferent, is another feature of development in the last forty years. Formerly nobody wrote unless they had something to say, but now every man is solicited to write and cannot apparently succeed without much advertising. Undigested articles see light, and crude theories are enunciated as truths. Work half done or badly done is reported for fear some one will get ahead of them. The consequence is there is a mass of purely ephemeral literature which does no good to anybody, except perhaps temporarily to the writer. A new remedy is discovered, everybody rushes into print and recites their experiences before the remedy has had time to be tested. Douglas Jerrold said once to a young man who burned to have himself in print: "Be advised by me young man, don't take down the shutters until there is something in the window." How many are those who have anything to show in the window after the shutters are taken down? "Oh that mine enemy would write a book," said the Psalmist. Now every medical man who is anybody does write a book, and although it may be condemned by a few, if well advertised it is read by the many. I heard a medical publisher say once that he did not care who wrote the book if he published it he could sell it, not on its merits but on his fulsome and oft repeated recommendation. The younger the practitioner as a rule the more he writes. Encyclopædias and systems are written or compiled by very young men having plenty of time, but as they get older they write less, but what they write is more worth reading, and by experience they learn how little they formerly knew, though posing