

THE CANADA LANCET.

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Criticism and News.

Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Address, DR. J. L. DAVISON, 12 Charles St., Toronto.

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AGENTS.—DAWSON BROS., Montreal; J. & A. McMILLAN, St. John, N. B.; GEO. STREET & Co., 30 Cornhill, London, Eng.; M. H. MAHER, 23 Rue Richer, Paris.

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IMPROVEMENT IN THE CHARACTER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

In Canada it is especially desirable to raise and keep raised the character and tone of the medical profession. There are innumerable ways and practices by which the tone of the profession can be lowered, but to proceed in the opposite direction is more difficult. No one can review the tendencies of modern times and their effects upon the practice of medicine without entering a strong protest against certain modern practices: that of contract work in lodges is perhaps the most pernicious, certainly it is the most general. In this class of practice the regulations which govern ordinary practitioners are overruled, the fees are cut down to the merest pittance and the physician himself made to feel under obligation to the "noble viziers" and tin-capped aristocracy who, by their great influence in the "lodge," have succeeded in securing his election as its physician; whereas, in truth, the doctor is the source of benevolence, by whose labors alone such organizations are able to exist. Is it not a lamentable fact that educated and able physicians of refined feeling allow their names to be put in nomination for the office of lodge doctor, in opposition to some other local physician? If asked the reason, the reply is that practice is poor and they are forced to do it.

Another growing and equally pernicious tendency is to engage as the physician to the shop

girls of some cheap bazaar, for a certain sum per annum, whilst the selfish employer of such labor deducts so much per week from the hands' pay towards the allowance of the physician and thus a profit is made out of the doctor's work. In Toronto we know such things to exist, and worse: that certain physicians living in large houses accept fifty cents as their consultation fee and give therefor, together with professional advice, a receipt in full for its payment. Is it to be wondered at, if the young physician, experiencing so many difficulties in obtaining an introduction to practice, should be led by such example to unprofessional acts: to advertise "Consultations free," or, just now, to introduce into the public press the startling notice that "through the personal influence of Lord Stanley, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John A. Macdonald, The Dominion Government, Lord Salisbury and the Lord High Chancellor of England, he has secured a supply of Koch's lymph for use in his 'own' private practice." Enough of the evil. What is the remedy?

To raise the character of the whole profession of the country cannot be the work of any one, but rather the result of the concerted action of all its best members. When we enquire into the influences by which men have been prompted to enter the medical profession, the circumstances are not so surprising.

Notwithstanding the advancements made in medical teaching, the fees for the medical course have remained almost the same, or with but very little increase for the last ten years. If the cost of attending medical lectures could be increased to double what it is at present, the effect in reducing the number of students and lessening the evils of overcrowding in the profession would be apparent. If the colleges in Canada would combine to bring the lecture fees as nearly equal to those of the colleges of Europe as are the lectures themselves, the change would be beneficial on all sides.

FOR DIABETES.

Sulphonal is the latest drug in the market for diabetes. If the pathology of the affection be considered, it will be difficult to understand how any of these new compounds can do other than exert a temporary influence upon that undue excretion of sugar. Antipyrin certainly did, in one case