

most successful men of the profession credit with nearly perfect results. Dr. Price considers that a woman, during and after labour, is a wounded woman, and the principles of good abdominal surgery apply in her case.

As a result of this painstaking work, and almost absolute cleanliness, Preston Retreat is to-day the best managed Maternity, and leads the world in showing the lowest mortality. Dr. Price has, in this institution, had thirteen hundred and twenty seven deliveries and only one death, and she was practically dead upon admission. She was picked up unconscious by the police patrol, and died three hours after admission.

Dr. Price contends that with firmness, care and cleanliness, such results are available in the better class of family practice.

ERNEST HALL.

Victoria, B.C.

Prince Edward Island.

DR. R. MACNEILL, Associate Editor for Prince Edward Island.

MEDICAL MEN AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

In our last issue we dwelt upon medical men, their fees and remedies at law, and showed that every man, unless a slave, was valuator of his own services. We now propose to deal with life insurance combinations and their treatment of our profession. What are the facts? An agent, who is amply rewarded for scouring the country for recruits, calls upon a doctor, and says he has a candidate or candidates for examination, at the same time informing the doctor that his fee will be \$2.50 or \$3, and with very exceptional ones \$4 and \$5. Other companies on the assessment plan will tie you down to \$1 and \$1.50. Is this treatment fair and just to medical men? In our opinion it is slavish and derogatory, to the status of the profession. They should, in a body as a medical society, make their own fees for examination for life insurance, and be able to tell those companies who pay heavy salaries to presidents and secretaries, with palatial offices and residences, the medical man, on whose report and faithfulness in examination depends the success of the company, will no longer

be dictated to in this matter. We don't mean to be unreasonable on this point, but claim, while the butcher, the tailor and the merchant dictate their own terms, it is just and proper that a physician should value his own services. In some instances an agent travels and takes a doctor with him in his rounds—the more applicants, the more the doctor makes, hence he is in partnership with the agent roping in parties who are not in circumstances able to pay the insurance premium regularly. If he has no money, his note is taken. These form the lapses in life insurance, but what careth the agent or the partner, so long as they rope in their fee. A whole souled and honourable physician would spurn such conduct. Frequently a young graduate makes his *debut* before the public in this way, travelling with an insurance agent. The ethics of the profession ought to frown down such tactics, ought also to prevent our members from making examinations in any case for a less sum than \$5. Where urinalysis is required the fee should be \$10, and a laryngoscopic examination should be \$5 additional. Just fancy an order known as Foresters requiring the physician to make a physical examination, with urinalysis, for \$1.50! We trust this matter will be taken up by the profession in this province, and action taken thereon at the next annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Medical Society.

We believe the profession in this province is equally intelligent and honourable as that of any other province, and if they once determine in this matter they will live up to it. We also believe that all doctors connected with lodges or courts should withdraw in a body, and no longer countenance such a wholesale fraud upon the profession. No doubt many submit in these matters because if they refuse, someone else will do the work there being no unanimity or harmony in our ranks to regulate the matter, and stand by one another in the course taken. It will not do to argue that such a course on the part of the doctors would be against public policy. It is equally inimical to public policy to combine against the profession, for the profession simply value their own services, and they do not attach a very extravagant value to such an important piece of work, when done thoroughly and intelligently.