

PRACTICIAN OR PRACTITIONER.—The *Medical News*, in an interesting editorial on "Questions of Nomenclature," characterizes the term practitioner in the following language: "Medical language has a somewhat fatalistic tendency to philologic barbarism that healthy modern minds should withstand. No science is so given to absurdities of nomenclature. Even a much-used synonym of physicians is philologically more than outlandish. The French have a word *praticien* for one who practises, for example, the law, and we have the same word in medical English, unused, but properly formed—*practician*. With megalosaurean wit we devise and use the linguistic outrage, *practitioner*. With just as much reason should we say *academicianer* or *dentistianer*. A practiser is, of course, one who practises; a practitioner, therefore, must be one who practitions!"

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LADY DOCTOR OR PHYSCIENNE.—A weekly penny paper called *Answers*, which is said to circulate by the million, suggests "Physicienne" as a title for female members of the medical profession, by way of an alternative for *doctora* or *doctorina*, and other equally euphonious designations. Perhaps the suggestion is intended as a witticism, for the journal aims, not very successfully, at facetiousness, but if so we question whether the real point of the joke will be apparent to the majority of readers. The meaning ordinarily attached to the word "physicien" in French is conjurer or mountebank; a man who extracts teeth *coram populo*, makes omelets in a hat, or produces endless lengths of ribbon out of his mouth; and although the feminine inflection is absent from the dictionary, "physicienne" can only be regarded as standing for the female of that ilk.—*Provincial Medical Journal*.

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