

at liberty to call as often as necessary. The dead-level fee—the same price for everybody—for all kinds of cases—should have no place in medicine. It certainly pays to dispense: First, the patient has his treatment at once; second, he will return if he needs more medicine, and the physician can see the effect of the medication and change, continue, or discontinue it as necessary; third, the patient cannot pass the prescription to his friends who are “just as he was.” A physician who habitually writes prescriptions, or prescribes proprietary preparations, simply hands over to the public a part of his income. Hit or miss, the laity will essay to treat themselves and even their friends and neighbors by the name or number on the bottle or box. At times, when the physician has not the appropriate medicine, it will be necessary to write a prescription, but this will not happen often, if he learns thoroughly the action of the most important drugs, and carries them in his case. Let physicians have printed on their prescription blanks, “Do not repeat,” or “*Ne repetatur.*” The New York Board of Health undertook to ascertain the extent to which substitution was being practiced in New York City, and sent out 373 prescriptions for phenacetin, with the result that only 58 were found to be pure phenacetin; in 315 there was substitution. To sum up: Let physicians collect while bills are small; educate the people that the fee schedule is only a minimum one; present bills in lump sums, and keep guard over prescriptions.—Charles Haase, M.D., Elmira, N.Y., in *J.A.M.A.*

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THE DOCTOR'S WIFE.—A good wife is one of the best assets of a physician, and is “rather to be chosen than great riches.” All women are not fitted to be doctors' wives, only about one in a thousand. When a boy I used to be sent after our old family doctor when someone was ill in the family. How well I can remember how the doctor's wife met me at the door with a pleasant smile and a warm grasp of the hand. She had a sweet face, and it made a great impression on my boyish mind. She would inquire all about the family, and feel just as much interested in our family as if it were her own. I did not care much for the old doctor's drugs, but I learned to have a great respect for his wife. Thus it is that a doctor's wife, with a little tact and kindness, can help her husband to get business and hold it. But unfortunately women are not all alike, and most women, when they marry a man, think that he belongs to them soul and body. As soon as the marriage takes