

Selections: Medicine.

A MEDICAL IDYL—THE IDEAL AND THE PRACTICAL.

Some years ago a young man named Eidolos graduated at one of our best medical colleges. He had formed his ideal of the true physician and intended to regulate his life by the standard which he had set himself, and resolved to so control and govern his every action that in the end he would attain unto the likeness of that exalted type the image of which was enshrined within his breast. The last words of the eminent man who had addressed his class on the day of graduation were: "preserve your ideals." These words constantly rang in the ears of the young man and he adopted them for his motto.

He located in a small lumbering town in the northern part of Michigan, whose streets were still encumbered with pine stumps. Here he began the practice of his profession and was not long without applicants for treatment.

A lumberman in a neighbouring camp was taken sick and our new man was sent for. The case proved to be one of pneumonia. Lumber camps afford but little in the way of care and nursing—they are not hospitals. Our doctor did all he could and attended him faithfully for two weeks but the patient died. The "boys" took up a collection and bought a \$40 coffin and gave their dead comrade a \$30 funeral, when after paying the apothecary's account there was \$5 left for the doctor. People said he was not practical or he would have secured his whole bill.

Late one night the doctor was visited by a strapping young fellow who lived some distance in the country. He was backward about making known his errand but it came out at length that he wanted some "driving medicine." He had been too intimate with a young woman in his vicinity and he wanted something to "drive" the impediment to the menstrual flow out of the way. Our doctor read him a lecture on the enormity of the proposed practice and urged him to marry the girl. In a few months thereafter the doctor attended the young fellow's wife in confinement. His fee for the

service was in money *nil*, but in satisfaction at the result immense. Here again he was not practical for the young fellow had been prepared to pay for the medicine.

Soon afterwards Dr. Eidolos removed to a larger and more flourishing town.

Among those who first called on him was the wife of a prosperous merchant. She stated that they had one child and did not desire another *so soon* and she thought she was pregnant. An examination revealed the fact that her surmises were correct. The doctor's aid was solicited to avert the trouble, and the request was backed up by the proffer of a \$50 bank note and the covert offer of her favours. The doctor was young, handsome, and poor, and he was more than mortal. He declined; you see he had an ideal. The lady soon after was taken ill and Dr. Praxis attended her. He said she had a severe cold and would soon be well. The result justified his predictions. Praxis understood his business and was soon getting all he could attend to. This lady said Eidolos was not a practical man.

One day Eidolos called to pay a visit of courtesy to a lady patient who was almost convalescent from a tedious illness. With her returning health the fires of passion burned afresh and as he rose to leave she stood against the door barring his exit from the room and inviting him by word and look to her embrace. Dr. Joseph Eidolos was equal to the occasion. He said it was impossible, and then smilingly, gently, firmly he opened the door and departed. This lady was heard to express her opinion that he was not a practical man. Praxis would have been more accommodating.

About this time a lady well on in years, the wife of a prominent official in one of the churches, asked the help of Dr. Eidolos in what she called an "accident." Their children were grown up and they did not desire any more so late in their married life. Eidolos declined to interfere, and she had recourse to Praxis who prevented the accident. During their conversation she referred to Eidolos in this way:

"Do you know Dr. Eidolos?" she asked.
"Yes."

"Do you think he is a practical man?" "No."