

the accoucheur. Barker, who was the great obstetrician of the time, had been the attendant at a number of accouchements occurring in prominent families, and in which infection followed, puerperal fever being epidemic at the time. He ridiculed the ideas advocated by Thomas, who subsequently came out with a paper on the subject which completely routed his popular and talented antagonist.—*The Clinical Review*.

That doctors are at present passing through bad times is undoubtedly true, for it has been estimated that during the last three years their incomes have fallen off 25 per cent., although there has been some improvement since 1904, which all look back upon as the lean year. The causes of this depression can hardly be those alleged by the correspondents whose letters we have quoted, for they were in operation long before the period mentioned; we must, therefore, look for more recent conditions to supply the answer. We believe the chief causes to have been, first, the gradual dying down of the epidemic of influenza which in 1900 caused a mortality of over 16,000, but in 1904 killed only 5,694; and, together with this subsidence of epidemic sickness, we have had mild winters, accompanied by a decrease of the type of illness which we may call "seasonable." The second cause is the depression of trade resulting partly from the frightful cost of the war, which was felt most acutely after the extraordinary war expenditure had ceased and trade had returned to its normal channels, and partly the normal reflux after the high-water-mark that trade had reached just before the war.—*British Medical Journal*.

### The Struggle for Existence.

There was a pathetic advertisement in the *Times* the other day, and we are glad to see that it is already receiving quotation in various journals. It ran:

AN EAST-END (London) MEDICAL MAN, B.A., Cantab., who has never had a day's holiday or a Sunday's rest since he has been in practice, and who has not sufficient capital to purchase a more comfortable living, would like to change his profession. He has taken honors in Science, so judges himself capable of filling a Post as ANALYTICAL CHEMIST. Having good credentials and references, he hopes that manufacturing firms, &c., will give his advertisement their consideration.

Those who are in a position to judge know only too well that the East End (London) medical man is typical of a large class. A man may be well educated at a university, he may be competent in his profession, he may be diligent and industrious,