

that in case of the subscriber not requiring medical treatment, fortnightly visits will be made as in case of illness, and that the medicines, being dispensed by myself, will be supplied at the lowest possible prices.

The advantages accruing from this plan are obvious—regular attendance secured to the patient, and medicines for a merely nominal sum within the reach of all.

Names and addresses can be left at the offices of the respective factories or at —, the year commencing from date of subscription, payable quarterly in advance.

Yours, &c.,

Non-Payment of Wages.

Capt. Balfour of the Royal Artillery, was summoned by Elizabeth Freeman for \$11.66, claimed to be due for wages. Mr. J. H. Patterson appeared for complainant. The complainant was engaged by Capt. Balfour as wet nurse, and while in his service her own child being taken sick, Balfour sent for Dr. Winstanley to attend to it, without asking her consent. The doctor sent in a bill of \$9 for his services to Capt. Balfour, which, though unpaid, was put in by the latter as a set off to the girl's claim. Strange to say it was allowed by the Magistrate and the claim reduced to \$2.66. Only yesterday in a similar case where the parties were in humbler circumstances he decided that no set off to a claim of this nature could be allowed, which only shows that in this tribunal there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. The judgment was simply an outrage on common sense and justice, and met with the general disapprobation of those present. Had the girl been left to her own judgment she would have engaged some doctor whose charges would have been more in accordance with her slender means; but no that was not allowed by the Captain, who ordered that the child should receive special attention, so that the mother who was nursing his child should not be disturbed or put out, but be enabled to devote her undivided attention to her charge. She, though not consulted in procuring medical attendance, quietly acquiesced, supposing that Capt. Balfour would pay for the doctor he had ordered. The affair is little to the credit of either Captain, Doctor or Magistrate. An appeal in the case would certainly be successful in upsetting this unjust verdict.

We beg leave decidedly to differ with the reporter of the *Daily Telegraph*, in his remark—"The affair is little to the credit of either Captain, Doctor, or Magistrate,"—about the Doctor. Dr. Winstanley did his duty in attending the child when called upon, and certainly deserved remuneration for his services. It was not his business to interfere in the matter; he seems to have forwarded his account to the proper person, and it was only a question between Capt. Balfour and his servant.

—The oldest Doctor in the world, Professor F. Verdugo, Salamanca, Spain, died, lately, aged 105 years. He had practised medicine for eighty years.

The Practice of Medicine in a Pecuniary Point of View.

From a very able and interesting editorial in the *Medical Record* on the practice of medicine in a pecuniary point of view, we glean the following, and recommend to the profession a careful perusal:

3. Let your *maximum charges be high*, and carefully graduate them according to the circumstances of your patients.

In regard to this matter of charges these two points are indisputable—first, that those patients who are able should pay well for their medical advice and treatment, just as they pay for everything else; and secondly, that those who are poor, or in moderate circumstances, should not pay as high as the wealthy. If advice is worth anything it is worth a great deal, and should be paid for accordingly. In our stores and markets the poor and the rich pay alike for the same quality of articles, and if any one is unable to buy the best of everything, he can get a poorer quality or go without entirely. In the matter of medical advice it is not so. Sick-ness visits alike the throne and the cottage. It is not a matter of choice, and when it comes the poor man desires and needs the best advice. All who are not positively destitute should pay something, and the rich should pay roundly, just as they pay for everything else that they purchase. We are all too much afraid of driving away our patients by high charges. Ultimately, however, the courageous physician wins the victory. It is really a blessing to lose some patients. We can afford to hire some individuals to keep away from the office. Mean prices are apt to bring in mean patients; and the presence of mean patients deters and repels many who would pay large fees. It is hard to raise prices even with the wealthy, and therefore we should begin by making our fees as high as will be borne. Better to begin too high than too low, for it is easier to lower our prices than to raise them. The profession are too easy in this respect. They are apt to charge too little for their labor, and nothing at all for their opinion. Physicians are something more than mechanics, and should charge for their opinion even more than for their time and muscle. The observance of these rules will never drive away patients who are worth keeping. By charging high charges and carefully graduating them when necessary, we shall secure the respect of those (of whom there are many, especially in our larger cities) who take pride in paying dearly for everything they get, and shall retain all—both poor and rich—whose patronage can be of permanent service. To raise the standard of prices is a duty that we owe not alone to ourselves but to the profession at large.

4. Be *prompt and active* in rendering and collecting your bills.

If medical advice and services are worth being paid for at all, they should be paid for promptly. Our patients should be impressed with the idea that our profession is to support us, and that their bills must pay our expenses. If we wish to retain our patients permanently we should insist on prompt payment; if we wish to make them ashamed to call on us, and to drive them to other physicians, we have only to allow them to neglect our bills. There need be no delicacy in this matter of collecting, whether done in person or by proxy. A proper