

distribution of said essay shall be entirely under the control of said Trustees. In case they do not publish the said essay or paper, it shall be the property of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia." The prize is open for competition to the whole world, but the essay must be the production of a single person. The essay, which must be written in the English language, or if in foreign language, accompanied by an English translation, should be sent to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., addressed to Ellwood Wilson, M.D., Chairman of the William F. Jenks Prize Committee, before January 1, 1889. Each essay must be distinguished by a motto, and accompanied by a sealed envelope bearing the same motto and containing the name and address of the writer. No envelope will be opened except that which accompanies the successful essay. The committee will return the unsuccessful essays if reclaimed by their respective writers, or their agents, within one year. The committee reserves the right to make no award if no essay submitted is considered worthy of the prize.

PUNISHING PATIENTS FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.—

The following from the *Lancet* will be appreciated :—

A woman, at Berlin, brought a little boy aged four to be treated. Some local examination was necessary, which, though it could not in the least have hurt the child, caused him to scream and kick so violently that nothing could be done with him. The doctor did his best to soothe the little fellow, but all to no purpose. He then came to the conclusion that the child was crying merely from naughtiness, and, losing all patience, administered a few slaps on the buttocks for the cure of this affection. The mother became very angry, and, snatching up the child, carried him off, subsequently obtaining a summons against the doctor. The court, however decided that the defendant had slapped the child with the object of doing him good, and therefore discharged the case. A similar charge was brought some time ago against a St. Petersburg medical man in a Russian court by an officer's wife. Here also the court took the doctor's side. Those who have much practice amongst children know how tiresome they can be, especially when they are spoilt and poorly. In these cases it is often found needful to resort to some system of rewards, and even to punishments ; but it certainly is not advisable for a medical man to take upon himself to slap a patient, though he may be occasionally sorely tempted to imitate the example of the Berlin defendant. Whether an

English court would regard the matter in the same light as the Berlin and St. Petersburg ones seem to have done, may be open to doubt.

There is no doubt we all have felt that the *argumentum baculinum* would often prove very efficacious in cases like the above. So also have we all felt what a blessing would be conferred upon many a patient suffering from an incurable disease, if the law permitted us to grant them a speedy and easy relief from their earthly woes. But it is to be feared that in either case abuses would creep in, which would more than counter-balance the good which might result.

ADVERTISING EXTRAORDINARY.—Following is an advertisement which we copy *verbatim et literatim* from a newspaper, printed not a thousand miles from Toronto :—

TO MY PATIENTS, PATRONS, AND FRIENDS.

Desirous of becoming acquainted with the most recent advances in Medicine and Surgery ; and of learning thoroughly and practically the best and latest treatment of all diseases, I have decided upon taking a short course in the now renowned Medical Schools of New York—in order that I may the better treat all who may honor me with their confidence. During my absence, Dr. ——— will take charge of my practice, and I am pleased to be able to recommend him to all my friends, confident that he is ably qualified to give the best attention and treatment to all calling upon him. Dr. ——— has had the advantage of a full course in New York, and is careful, steady and attentive, and will, I doubt not, give the best satisfaction. Hoping to meet all my friends again in a short time, I remain, Yours most sincerely,

We are glad to state that the *esprit de corps* of the profession in Canada is such, that any comment upon the above is unnecessary. We are weary of the subject of unprofessional advertising, having written short editorial articles on it two or three times in the past two years. Hardly a week passes without our having our attention called to this subject, but lest we should lay ourselves open to the charge of always harping on one string, and of giving our readers our ideas on the subject *ad nauseum*, we usually pass such remainders over in silence.

IODINE TRICHLORIDE. — This preparation of iodine (*Lancet*) is a stronger germicide than carbolic acid, and nearly as strongly germicidal as the