

tainly not. Why then should our profession be the only one so blind, and unbusinesslike as to degrade themselves, and lose money by so doing? The members of the profession in London, Ont., have made an attempt to put a stop to the contract practice and every man in that city with the exception of six or seven has signed an agreement to do no more lodge practice after the expiration of the year, under a penalty of \$60 for each offence, provided every physician in the city signs the document. A similar effort is being made in Toronto, and will take effect, provided 95% of the physicians will sign. Many are afraid that men will be brought in to take up the work, but the ostracism which will be theirs, should deter any self-respecting men from entering into injurious competition with their professional brethren.

If there was a great *esprit de corps* among medical men this question could easily be settled, but it is an unfortunate fact that there is scarcely any cohesion among the doctors; keen competition and a lowered status of the profession render it difficult to solve any questions relating to the general welfare of the faculty.

LOUIS PASTEUR.

By the death of M. Louis Pasteur, Sept. 27th, the scientific world suffers a loss, not irreparable, but great. The medical world owes, perhaps more to him than to any man who ever lived. He was not a physician, but was educated as a chemist and spent the earlier portion of his life in that field of work. As every one knows, the later years of his valuable life have been devoted to pathology. He was the father of bacteriology.

It was Pasteur who first conclusively proved that fermentation and putrefaction were impossible, except in the presence of living germs; and that the microbes found in certain organic liquids, after exposure to the air, were in every instance derived from living organisms, thus giving final quietus to the old doctrine of spontaneous generation, and preparing the way for Lister's introduction of antiseptics and asepsis into surgery.

His greatest practical discoveries were, a method to prevent the grape vine pest, and inoculation against rabies. Every one knows the vast importance attributed to germs in the ætiology of disease.

To Pasteur, through his investigations in anthrax his discovery of the possibility of immunizing animals to that disease and others equally virulent, may be given the credit of laying the foundation of the great recent developments in prophylaxis. The idea of serum therapy may justly be accredited to him.

Born in 1822, his early life was one of severe struggle, but his indomitable will and his real love of science earned for him in turn, every distinction that the French Government could give him. By a decree of Napoleon III., not promulgated, he was made a Senator, and in 1885 became a member of the Legion of Honor, in which he was steadily promoted to the highest rank.

TORONTO CLINICAL SOCIETY.

The opening meeting of the Toronto Clinical Society, for the season, was held in St. George's Hall, Elm St., Oct. 9th. President Dr. J. E. Graham in the chair, Dr. J. N. E. Brown acting as secretary.

After the opening business Dr. Graham delivered the inaugural address. He referred to the great importance of clinical study, which he maintained should not be neglected, notwithstanding the demands made by pathology and bacteriology. The essayist then reviewed the study of medicine during the past century. There were three eras, that of the clinician, represented by Bright, Addison and Laennec; that of the morbid anatomist, represented by Rokitsansky and Virchow, pre-eminently; and that of the bacteriologist, to which the late Pasteur and Koch belonged. During the past ten years he said the attention of medical men was directed to the importance of clinical study; in this they were wonderfully aided by instruments of precision which were unknown to observers before. He attached great importance to the examination of body fluids. The subject of the great strides in the matter of scientific treatment was touched upon and bright prospects pointed out as possible in the near future.

Dr. A. A. Macdonald gave the report of a case in practice. The patient was a man aged fifty in whom the most prominent symptoms were: A history of strain, the appearance of a tumor in the