OMK, let us with glad mung Rytol the Holy Cross; With special exultation

NINTH MONTH

September

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A pickary indulgence is granted once a month to all those who shall say the chapter of the Seven Bolors every day for a monti, if, being truly penitent, after confession and communion, they shall pray for the intention of the fovereign Pontiff. Other indulgencys for the frequent saying of this chaptet are granted.

### CONFESSION OF PHYSICIAN

ow One M. D. Gained a Practice There is a period in the practice of very physician when he is baffled by mystery of disease. At such me he feels so helpless in the face nature's forces that he asks himifi "Am I, after all, fitted for my rofession?" No physician is so pridericken or blasphemous as to beeve that he can always heat—the lck. But every physician, sooner or ter, comes in contact with cases hich he is unable to diagnose or to reat as they should be treated. This he is a strong man he will fight out. In any event, there is a ighty struggle going on in that an's mind and upon his decision sta his wholé future. 🕫 🌬

say this meatal battle occurs in life of every physician, in order at the allegation my be applied to medical profession in the most eral manner. If you pin me down paly and say that, whild I am corthere are still notable excepto the rule, I will, for the of argument, accept the amend-I think I am generous, though, I say that there is not more one exception among every thouphysicians. This fact, which appear so startling to the is my chief justification effor ing upon record a fragmentary of some things that are supto be carefully guarded within walls, consultation-rooms and dok chamber.

who enter the sacred precincts edicine are supposed to have a Mon for this noblest of all proens. Is it really true? I do not by the question to intimate all the men who select medicine wir life work are ruled by sorotives. Heaven forbidi. Many stracted by the opportunities for Atlan their fellowmen; others d by the allurements, which are ated to the student of science, still like the dignity and re-Bbility inseparable from the ssion, and finally, most of d it as an excellent way of makoncy. But as I have said, the great majority finally reach where they wonder if they are fitted for the profession.

wently hope that the time may when a real vocation for medivill be the first requisite debefore a student can begin his It should be a matter for ful consideration. I can illuswhat I am trying to explain by, that it should be something

by the Catholic hierarchy before they will consent to permit an applicant to enter upon his divinity studies.

I can begin my own story by saying that I nover at any time had a "vocation" for medicine But it was the food desire of my parents that I should one day attach "M.D." to my name. When my profession was decided upon I interposed no objection. I received my authority to practice in the shape of a very small diploma with a very large seal. I had my photograph taken in a group with my classmates, all of us attired in gowns and wearing mortar-board

After that solemn ceremony was over, we turned loose on an unsuspecting world I hung out my shinglo and had a long and weary wait a crisis in the life of a physician for patients. They wouldn't come to bade me looking for them. One of the objections urged against me was my youth, I waited on, satisfied that time would remedy this fault. My money, however, gave out before I

had acquired years enough to satisfy. the carping critics I realized that the time had arrived for sound business methods My first step was to call on a

druggist in my neighborhood, and gently inslauate my desire for a lit-

"But you have some patients?" he asked, in a brisk tone.

"Oh, yes, a few;" I replied. "But scarcely enough to talk about."

"Well," he said, with the tradesman's, laugh, "I had no way of discovering that you had any."

"What do you mean?" I asked, perpiexed at his tone...

"I mean," he responded, frankly, that none of your prescriptions ever come here."

"Well," I said, weakly, "I can't belp that."

"Oh, yes, you can," was the blunt rejoinder, "you can instruct them to

come to me." There is no need to continue the dialogue further. I remained with him for an hour, and before I left I had made an arrangement by which he was to pay me 25 per cent. on the gross amount received from all

prescriptions sent to his store by me I also agree to pay him 31 per cent. on all money received from patients sent by bim to me. My ears tingled a little at the thought of the sordid arrangement, but only for a little time. His arguments satisfied me. He said they all did it, it was simply a game of "you tickle me and I'll tio-

After that I paid \$500 in instalments for the privilege of being the official physician of one of the largest hotels in my native city. Whenever a guest was taken sick, in the praise. hole! I was sent for as the hotel physician. I can assure you that I

ly well-to-do persons, pay me handsome ices. The instalments of my \$500 purchase mon-y for the practice had to be paid. And, anyway, hustness la business.

A colleague of mine, who heavted the ownership of a horse and carrlage, used to drive at breakneck speed through the principal streets of the town in which he resided. The neighbors all said. "What a tremendous practice that young doctor has He scarcely takes time to eat his meals" It was all a ruse, but it inspired confidence in the people and finally they did flock to him

So I resolved to "get busy," morning I took the curtains off my parlor window and determined to be my own laundryman, for that day at least. Just at that awkward time two patients came in, one after the other-the first I had in ten days My coat was off, my sleeves rolled up and I was deep in my work. What was I to do? Why, turn- the incident to advantage, of course So wining my hands quickly, I opened the door slightly and said. "Pardon me for a few minutes. I am busy with an operation."

Then I closed the door and resumed my operation, which was certainly important to me When it was concluded and I had removed all evidence of my crime, I opened the side door, as if dismissing a patient, and said in a loud tone

"Now walk very slowly Don't exert yourself unnecessarily Goodby I walked down the hallway and opened and closed the front door with a bang Quickly regaining my office, I opened the sliding door and cried out distinctly

"Next, pleasel"

A special opportunity comes in the life of every physician which, if swiftly seized and securely held, leads to a good practice My opportunity, all things considered, came sooner than I expected. A street car turning a corner and giving a sudden lurch threw a well-dressed, elderly gentleman into the street. The usual crowd surrounded him and the usual voice cried out:

"Is there a doctor present?" But the usual number of physicians did not step forward, and I felt it It flashed over my mind in an in

man had broken his right arm

few vards away.

He was carefully carried to his room, and then the first crisis in my career confronted me. I was a medical and not a surgical doctor, and while in common with others of my profession. I possessed an element ary knowledge of all the branches of the healing art, I felt some doubt about my ability successfully to set this particular broken arm, presented unusual difficulties, dismaying to my small experience. However, it would never do to yield to such misgivings in the presence of the patient. Assuming my most pleasing manner I said:

"Perhaps you have a family physician and would like to have him take charge of this case."

"I want my arm set," he replied testily, "and I want you to do itif you can."

This was a commend and a query I obeyed the command and ignored the query. The job was a hard one, but it was not to be compared to the mental struggle that I underwent. Suppose I should bungle the case and lame the man for life. This and a score of similar thoughts flashed through my mind. I realized that confidence—assurance, if you will was necessary, and I nerved myself up to it so well that my work was completed without a flaw. I received a handsome fee and more free advertising than any young man of my age in our town. The papers spoke of my skill, and my distinguished patient informed all of his friends that I was a wonder. Little did they dream of the nervous trepidation with which I approached a task which was to bring me so much upcarned

One of my most valuable experiences was in a hospital. If I do say made the petients, who were general. It myself, I performed some good ! for met"

work there, and gained information that could not be learned from the text books. The best thing I learned was the importance of decision in emergencies One night, while I was on duty, a nurse came to me with blanched face and whitened lips to say that she had accidentally given the wrong medicine to two patients I rushed to their bedsides, and found that the mistake was likely to prove doubly fatal Both cases required the instant use of the atomach pump

Two men were dying from poisoning, and there was only one stomach pump in the room.

What was I to do? What could do? Simple operate on the man nearest to me The nurse ran for assistance and another stomach pump But it was too late I saved the man I operated on The other died

On another occasion I received a request to call from an old patient who was afraid she was taking scarlot fever I responded at once The patient was one of two elderly sisters whom I had attended for many years. I greeted her in the sittingroom, and noted her pulse while in the act of shaking hands with her By some witty remarks I made her laugh, which enabled me to see her tongue Then I said in a playful tone

"If you will get me a glass. I will treat you to some of my patent soda

She did so I put a tablet in the water, and she drank it.

I want you to know that I take pride in inv original methods. I try to educate my patients to like and not to dread the visits of the doctor In this case all of my work had been done without the direct knowledge of the patient and I felt very good over it So I hade my patient goodbre with extreme cheerfulness. She looked surprised and then said:

"Of course you will come upstairs and see my sister?"

"Not to-day," I said. "Give her my respects."

"Why," she said, looking mystified abd startled, "how strangely you "Strangely?" I echoed, "Why?

"Because I sent for you to prescribe for my sister and you doctine to see her.':

my duty to push my way through the stant. I had prescribed for the wrong erond and proclaim my profession I sister I was entirely stoo ciever. compelled the gaping spectators to Fortunately, no harm was done The fall back and give the injured man incdicine given the well weman was air Then I tore off his collar and tie simply to head on possible fever and and opened his shirt front. After could do no harm I was too mortithat I administered a stimulant. The fied to confess my mistake, and, afman, who had been in a faint, revive, ter giving the right medicine to the right woman, I left the house.

Thus far I had been successful. A One day a wealthy Chicago man further examination showed that the came to me to be cured of heart disdirected that he be removed to his thought he was surely going to die I A hasty examination convinced me "This is my home right here," he that his heart was all right and said, in a feeble voice, indicating a that he was troubled with an acute handsome brownstone house only a and peculiar form of indigestion. He would not believe that. Should I tell

him and be laughed at for my pains? My conscience, my tact and my judgment were in a turmoil. But the habit of quick decision, which I had acquired in the hospital-and the saving grace that helps a man who tries to be as honest as circumstances will allow-came to my aid.

"My dear sir," I said emphatically, "whatever trouble you have with your heart originates in your stomach. And the trouble in your stomach originates in your mouth. And the trouble in your mouth originates in too much whiskey and tobacco "

That pleasing glow of honor satisfied, which follows every deed of duty done, spread all over me I felt'like curing him for the glory of the profession But my patient was determined upon diagnosing his own caseand paying high for it.

"Stomach, Hades'" he rejoined, and his face turned white with anger "Look here, I have been to seven other medical jackasses, who knew about as much as you do I've got heart disease. If you want to cure me, you can, and I can afford to pay you llut if you are going to load me up with bread bills and charge mo one dollar a visit, I'll drop the whole lunatic asslum of physicians and cure myself."

If he attempted to cure himself he would be a dead man within six months.

"This is a remarkable case," I said, very slowly and very gravely "In all of my experience with disease I have never come across anything exactly like this."

This was perfectly true. But it alatmed the money king. There was just the auspicion of a tremor in his voice as be asked:

"Do you think these is any

"Y-c-s," I replied drawing out the lowel of that simple word in the most painful and rejuctant manner. "Yes, if you will subscribe to my conditions."

"What are they? he asked anxious

"That you will place yoursell unreservedly in mny charge-that you will follow my directions to the let-

"Ill do that! I'll do that!" he cried out wish eagerness that was truly laughable.

But I was not through with him I sat down at my desk, sighed pensixtly, and gazed through the open Window.

"I do not know." I said, speaking again with that professional slowness and exactness. "I do not know whether I should undertake this Case "

"Why not?" he exclaimed in some alarm

"Because it will take up so much of my time-and my time-jou know -is very valuable-

"So is my life, he interrupted, with a feeble attempt at humor

"Very valuable," I continued without a change of muscle and as if I had not heard the interruption "I may have to see you twice a day for several weeks "

"How much do you want?" he asked excitedly, as if eager that I should not get away from him

'The true physician," I said, "has no price. I will cure you first, you can pay me afterward

How would \$500, do? he asked. "Siri" I said, in a voice that was absolutely meaningless

It might have meant that the amount was entirely too much, or that it was ridiculously low

"I will give you \$1,000" he shouted. With the air of a man at a pub-He auction

I cured him in a month and received \$1,000 for it.

Did I do right or wrong? I leave you to decide.

One night I was called in to see a little child suffering from malignant diphtheria It was a tad case I did as t think she would last until morn

ing From all of the conditions I can say now that I would have been justified in leaving that child to its Tate Did It Not at all I was affected by the violent grief of the mother andl remained at the bedside of the tmy sufferer all that night and all the next day. I did not do it for finand ial reasons. The family was pour I did not do it for fame, for this is the first time it has been mentioned, anderen now it is told anonymously. I liked the child, I acted from the

tives of pure humanity This little incident brought me in contact with an extraordinary young physician Smallpox was epidemic in the city. who could do so with a show of de-

cency, shirked smailpox duty. Some of them said that they were not feeling well; others said they had families of their won to consider. and a few were honest enough to kay that they were alraid of the disease and did not propose to take any

The young physician I speak of, filled with lofty ideas of duty, determined to devote himself entirely to smallpox practice. He took all the precautions that were counselled by science and human reason, but otherwise he was absolutely fearless. He used to vaccinate himself every other week, and as the siege lasted nearly three months, his arms were almost covered with scars and scabs from

the virus. He did wonders for human. ity. He waited on pour and rich alike If they had no money he looked for no compensation Where they had he expected a fee in proportion to his work. He saved many lives. It is such men, and they are not rare, atio ennoble the profession

It is a profession whose days are made of diplomacy and whose nights are composed of crises There is always a high duty calling, and there is usually a mere human man trying to respond Had I possessed in the beginning the vocation for my profession which belonged to my friend, who had built a great career upon the foundation of a smallpox epidemic, I should long ere this have been either famous or dead. Such famo comes to a Jenner; such death comes to a Damien, who, if he had not been a priest, would have been a physician All that I would say is that the physician should pussess the intellect of a Jenner and the heart of a Damien.

As for me, I am a doctor, practising medicine.-The New York Indenendent.



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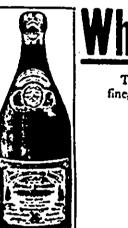
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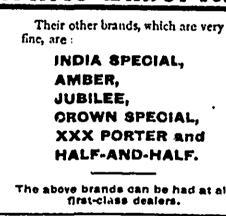
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