

The use of alkaloids and active principles, the tendency toward smaller dosage and greater frequency of administration, the pernicious practice of prescribing proprietary and compound preparations instead of the remedies of the pharmacopœa, were other subjects with which the essayist dealt. The last-mentioned practice benefitted the manufacturer, but it was doubtful if it helped the physician or his patient.

Presidential Address.—Dr. John Coventry then delivered the presidential address. Herewith are some extracts :

WHERE IS THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE PAST?

Whatever the causes are, we find him to-day split up into specialties, and the average family has taken on a sort of centrifugal action with respect to their ailments. The major domo has had a long-standing hæmorrhoidal affection, and a "rectal specialist" has him in hand. Madame, in the struggle of maternity, has received injuries which she thinks require the services of a gynecologist.

The elder son has a pain in his back, and is doing his own doctoring." The patent medicine advertisement is getting its deadly work in on him and his pocketbook—and his back still aches.

The elder sister has trouble with her eyes, and an alleged oculist is treating them.

Another scion has a "catarrh," so called. He is in the hands of a "throat and lung institute."

Another daughter has a friend who has an unrevealed trouble, and goes twice a week to a doctor (?) who cures all his patients with electricity, and the young lady is easily persuaded to try him for—constipation.

A younger brother has an unseemly eruption, and a "skin specialist," after exhibiting the pictures and the pickles in his office, promises him a "skin like velvet," but he will have to shake medicine for six months.

But why multiply the evidence? The fact is known to every one of you that united families, so far as a common physician is concerned, is the exception nowadays.

I am not prepared to account for this state of things, but I may be pardoned if I suggest that some of us are largely responsible for it ourselves.

There is a trite saying "that too many men abandon the study of the profession when they begin the practice of it," and in the busy life a doctor leads, when his rides are long and tiresome, when his sleep is broken up, when he is struggling to build up a practice and can scarcely make ends meet, it is not to be wondered at if he does not