

opinion whether or not they would be safe in accepting for insurance some applicant whom he has at some time or other attended, and in whose medical application he is referred to as the doctor who was in attendance. He is asked to give the particulars as to duration and severity of the trouble, and what effect it has had on the applicant as a risk. It is the custom to give this opinion gratis, the company usually remembering to furnish an addressed envelope adorned with a postage stamp. Such an opinion is of vastly more value to the company than many postage stamps, and in unfavorable cases may save them thousands of dollars; yet at present, in the absence of any regulation in the matter, the physician feels bound to give the opinion for the sake of the applicant. By no stretch of the imagination could one fancy a member of the legal profession acting so foolishly. There are many cases where to give is twice blest, but giving to corporations is not one of them. A resolution of the Ontario Medical Association would easily make it possible to demand a fee in such cases. If not allowed by the company, no opinion would be given. Better still, the fee—and no paltry one either—should be fixed and placed among the items of the fees' tariff for the guidance of all.

The unauthorized re-filling of prescriptions by the druggist is another universal source of loss to the physician, who receives a dollar or two for the advice in the first place, which then goes about

"doing good" for years, and ever extending in its circle of usefulness, which varies in extent with the needs of the circle of friends of the first *benefactor*, and its original value. The fortunate druggist, in the meantime, reaps the harvest where he has not sown. Whether anything other than a universal revival of the practice of the physician dispensing his own medicines can meet this drain on his rightful profits, is a question that would bear and deserves discussion.

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The programme of the above association, which appears in another column, will be seen to contain the names of many live men throughout the Province. The subjects are live as well, full of scientific interest, and should provoke general interest. While this is the great attraction for thinking and working practitioners, it will not do to forget the social feature of the meeting. Everything will be done by the Committee of Arrangement for the entertainment of the guests and outside members. A large representation from every part of the Province is anticipated. The officers have been indefatigable in their efforts to make this year's meeting a grand success. It now remains for the members to complement these efforts by attendance and a readiness to discuss the various papers.

Cold Bathing During Menstruation.—

Dr. Depasse (*Gazette de Gynécologie*) says cold bathing during menstruation is a beneficial measure, provided women accustom themselves to the treatment by bathing every day for at least eight days before the arrival of the period, when they can continue during the menstrual flow without any danger. In the case of a very anemic girl, in whom this treatment was instituted, it gave most satisfactory results. Houzel, before the recent Boulogne Congress, held that cold salt water baths facilitate the menstrual flow, increase the duration of genital life, and likewise increase fecundity in a remarkable manner.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

A Treatment for Acne of the Face.—In an abstract from the *Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique* which appears in *Lyon Médical*, the writer gives the following formula, which, he says, has often been employed at Saint Louis with success: Fresh lard, 750 grains; sublimed sulphur, 105 grains; beta-naphthol and styrax ointment, each 30 grains. Applications of this mixture should be made with strong friction every night for a week, then interrupted for six days, when they may be repeated if necessary, although it is often useless to do so. If there is an appearance of small acute clusters, which generally show themselves toward the second day, the acne is ordinarily cured or very much ameliorated at the end of a week.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.