

Other professions have the same difficulties to contend with; but in one respect they have the advantage over us, in being *allowed* to refuse their services unless fully remunerated. We believe that the evil complained of by patients might in a measure be obviated, making it better for them and the physician, too, were the *cash* system, or a *very short credit*, adopted. Many of the disputes and much of the litigation would in this way be avoided. Besides, the physician could *afford* to attend his patient *cheaper*, as there would be no expense for collection or other matters attendant upon the open account business. A physician, who is enthusiastic in his profession, and has a large practice to attend to, cannot spare time to arrange his books and make out bills. There is not one of them in fifty who who pursues anything like a correct system in such matters; nor would their books, in many instances, be held as evidence of indebtedness in any court of law. Now if by common consent the old plan could be entirely abolished, and the physician receive his fee as soon as the service was rendered, as is done in other countries and among dentists here, or at the termination of the case, his charges could be less, and there would be more likelihood of his receiving *compensation*. Practice is lost by allowing too long a credit. At the end of the year, when the bill is presented, there is a want of *recollection* on the part of those who are to pay the bill. They think that neither they nor their families have been sick *much*, or at any rate not enough to employ the doctor to such a large amount. If payment is insisted upon, depend upon it you will be sent for again *when they wish you*.

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STATISTICS OF POISONING.—A return has been published relative to the number of poisoning cases tried in the United Kingdom, from 1839 to 1849, inclusive. The number of persons tried for this crime during the above period, at the Central Criminal Court, has been 33, of whom 18 were men and 15 women; 16 were tried for murder, of whom five were convicted, and 17 for attempt, of whom 10 were convicted. In the Home circuit, 8 women were tried for murder by poison, 3 for attempt to murder, and 2 men as accessories before the fact. The number of convictions was three. In the Midland circuit, 11 women were tried for administering poison, of whom four were convicted. The number of men tried was six, all of whom were acquitted. In the Norfolk circuit 22 cases of poisoning were tried, in 12 of which the prisoners were females. The number of convictions was nine. In the Northern circuit the number of males tried for poisoning was 15, and of females five; the number of convictions being 14. In the Oxford circuit 17 cases of poisoning were tried, in nine of which the prisoners were women. The number of convictions was three. In the Western circuit, in 12 out of 22 cases of