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## DOCTORS AND PATIENTS—PREVENTION BETTER FOR BOTH THAN CURE—A CHANGE DESIRABLE.

IN referring to the "influence" of this JOURNAL "in elevating the profession and in modifying its practice," a correspondent in the *Orillia Packet* writes that "it will need a very high conscientiousness and sense of honor" for physicians "to advise patients to avoid sickness instead of paying for its treatment." "Many a time and oft," during the last twelve years, we have urged the great desirability of a complete change in the practice of medicine, and that physicians should be retained and feed rather to prevent disease than to cure it. One of the most eminent of the physicians of London, Sir Wm. Jenner, physician to the Queen, has said, "To prevent disease is the highest aim of the science and art of medicine," and his words have been reiterated, and indeed, acted upon, by many of his ablest confreers. We have said and written, time and time again, that there is no reason why there should not be a change in the practice, as indicated, and in a comparatively short time, and although it may not take place in its entirety in our time, it is sure to come about eventually, especially when it can be so easily shown that such change would be so decidedly mutually advantageous.

The proposed method of practice is generally regarded as a sort of "quack method," we know, but why so we can

hardly understand. It is true it has been practiced to a certain limited extent by unsavory hands; but it is virtually in practical operation in "lodges," benefit associations, railways, large manufacturing establishments, etc.

Now and then our views have been urged by others in the profession, and we never yet have seen anything worth mentioning urged or named against the method. At the last annual meeting of the American Medical Association, Wm. Hutchinson, A.M., M.D., lecturer on hygiene, Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons, read an exhaustive paper on this subject. The following extracts from the paper, published in the journal of the Association, so accord with our own views, many times expressed, that we have pleasure in giving them, and trust they may give rise to some thought at least upon the important question, both in the minds of many of our readers who are not physicians, as well as in those who are. Dr. Hutchinson said: Is the system of making a physician's income from a family or community depend solely upon the amount of sickness occurring in it, the best that can be devised for the mutual interests of both parties concerned? Such practically is our system. Its philosophy might be condensed in the motto,