

REMUNERATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS
AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOR ATTENDANCE
UPON THE POOR.

According to law, a medical practitioner is compelled, under a severe penalty, to supply the Clerk of his municipality, who is the division registrar, with the necessary information regarding vital statistics. He may be, and sometimes is, fined for neglecting to do so. There is no fault to be found with such a law. It is right and proper, but, while the division registrar receives a fee for registration we supply the facts and get nothing for it. Practising lawyers, judges of the various Courts, the Crown Attorney of your County, all receive fees for various legal papers not more important, but we, simply because we have not made our influence felt amongst our law-makers, do all these things gratis. Do you not think it time for a change? If we fill out a certificate for an insurance company, without which the beneficiary of a deceased person is unable to receive the amount of an insurance policy, do we get anything for so doing? Not a cent! You will not find our legal brethren doing anything so foolish. They are able, under the law, to collect good fees for work of a similar character. One often hears the remark, "There are too many lawyers in Parliament." This may or may not be true, but there are certainly too many doctors both in and out of Parliament who seem to have no interest in the welfare of the greatest profession of them all.

Then in the matter of the treatment of the poor. Our profession is not mercenary. We can never be justly accused of want of charity except to ourselves. The public seem to think that the fact of one's being a doctor implies that he is rich. When I was a boy I thought something similar. The illusion has vanished.

How frequently do you see the poor family or families whom you have attended gratuitously year after year, supported by the municipality, in every necessity except the doctor's attendance and medicines? The butcher, baker and other tradesmen present their bills to the Council of your town, and are paid. If you have tried to collect yours in a similar manner, have you ever remarked the scorn with which it was thrown out?

It is sincerely to be hoped that you may be able to initiate some plan whereby the injustice from which our profession suffers in these respects may be remedied, and that we shall