

CONTRACT AND LODGE PRACTICE.

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IT will be noticed, by referring to the last issue, that a special committee was appointed at the meeting of the Ontario Medical Association to report on the matter of lodge practice. After considering the question carefully, the committee presented their report to the effect that club, lodge, and contract practice were evils that should be abolished as soon as possible. A friendly and interesting discussion followed, and the report was adopted.

We are glad that there is a general feeling of opposition to certain classes of club and lodge practice, if not to all kinds of such practice. But there seems to be a certain amount of difficulty in deciding definitely as to what classes of contract practice are objectionable. As far as we understand the meaning of the word "contract," every member of the profession in actual practice enters into contracts. The surgeon undertakes to perform an operation, the accoucheur undertakes to conduct a case of midwifery, each for a fixed sum. The surgeon or physician of an asylum or gaol undertakes to treat all the patients in one or other for a fixed sum. The surgeon of a railway company undertakes to do certain work for a sum which may be fixed or may vary according to circumstances. These will be generally considered as contracts which are justifiable. We believe, however, it will be generally conceded that no physician or surgeon of any corporation has a right to interfere with the private practice of a brother practitioner. Take, for instance, the surgeon of an accident insurance company. Such a surgeon should certainly be allowed to see the patient, and report for his company; but he should always respect the rights of the practitioner in attendance. Friction frequently arises in such cases, and unpleasant results not unusually follow. Every effort should be made on both sides to avoid even the appearance of selfish or unprofessional conduct.

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CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

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ELABORATE preparations are being made in St. John, N.B., for the reception of the Canadian Medical Association on August 22nd and 23rd next. The gathering will probably be one of the largest the association has ever had. From reports that come in from time to time, it is believed that the profession of the Maritime Provinces will turn out almost to a man. From Montreal, Toronto, and points further west there will be large delegations.

The following are some of the papers promised: "Cases in Practice," R. J. McKechnie, Nanaimo, B.C.; "A Year's Experience in