

judiciously administered until its physiological effects are apparent, may be considered almost a specific in such cases. That such a class of men are allowed to practice is another mystery to be solved by our State boards.

The man with the exorbitant consultation fee is certainly deserving of a membership in this Amalgamated Order of Quacks. A fee of a thousand dollars is considered "reasonable." His assumption is really marvellous, but perhaps, after all, he is but poorly paid for the words of wisdom that fall from his lips. We who have not attained his eminence must observe all due respect. Allah is great!

An unusually popular but disgusting method is for the aspirant for prosperity in the field of medicine to attempt to lie himself into a practice, and the remarkable part of this method is that in the vast majority of instances it is successful. Such a disciple of Ananias is invariably in a seething rush of business. He assails your ears with tales of innumerable hysterectomies, laparotomies, and amputations; complains of his inability to snatch enough time from the stress of his duties to obtain a whole night's rest, or modestly speaks of the thousands of dollars he made during the preceding month. To the practitioner of medicine these visionaries appear in their true light, but to the average layman, to whom the profession is a sealed book, these fabrications of a diseased imagination take on the garb of probabilities. The layman, as a rule, can not differentiate between a quack and a physician.

Another, who, like Artemus Ward's kangaroo, is "an amoosin kuss," is the man who makes his entrance always at just the crucial moment, dramatically seizes the patient by the scruff of the neck and snatches him from the very maw of devouring death. Whereupon the patient, being human, and with the human conceit attendant upon a postponed visit to the other shore, ever afterward poses as a living example of the skill of this physician.

Last, but by no means least in point of numbers, is the physician who is his own press-agent. He zealously chronicles his goings and his comings with an energy worth of a better cause. It is not an infrequent occurrence for him to telegraph ahead of his expected arrival home, so that his extensive clientèle may be notified. No matter how trivial the accident, he invariably notifies the papers, never omitting to state that "Dr. So-and-So was summoned." That these men should waste their talents upon medicine proves a sad blow to journalism.

It is passing strange that most of the class chronicled herein, by some occult means of auto-suggestion, have become so blinded to the ridiculousness of their position that they must needs be shown. Let the profession have done with the men who so prostitute its aims. As for those whose antics are merely amusing, let them take this bit of homely philosophy of Bobbie Burns to heart:

"Oh, wad some power the giftie gie us  
To see oursel's as others see us!  
It would frae mony a blunder free us,  
And foolish notion."

—*American Practitioner and News.*