

various societies is evident from the hue and cry which has resulted since the publishing of the resolution in the press. The benefit obtained is of course cheap medical attendance, but the alleged reason for the existence of these appointments and the objections made to their possible disappearance is that the members are poor and cannot pay ordinary fees. It may be stated that the majority of Lodge members are not proper subjects for medical charity, but the rule is rather that the members are the thrifty, comfortably circumstanced portion of the community, and quite able to give proper remuneration for the professional services they require. In fact, one writer in the lay press, to show the importance of these societies in the community, stated that "the benefit societies are composed of leading clergymen, lawyers, doctors, judges, merchants, bankers, brokers, mechanics, manufacturers (and finally) laborers." It is admitted by several other writers to the press that many of these organizations would cease to exist if they could not get cheap medical services. It is thus clear that a large portion of the community, and quite a respectable class, are receiving professional services at nominal rates, usually a dollar a year, and in some Lodges this includes medicines as well.

It will be admitted by all that those composing the class of citizens mentioned by the above Lodge Doctor advocate are such as should be expected to give reasonable remuneration to their medical adviser, and that there should be some other method of meeting the alleged wants of the poor than by associating them with the above array of notables who participate equally in the benefits. We have every sympathy with the work that is done by the numerous benefit organizations which exist, and consider that the opportunities they give for social commingling of members, the learning and practice of the rules of debate, the development of the fraternal spirit, the advantages in travelling from home of having friends wherever the order exists, the sick benefit and other funds, as well as the services of a physician when ill are of great advantage : they all belong to the list of the amenities of modern society and tend to develop a higher civilization ; but if the lodges, instead of supplying a physician ; would supply the means for procuring a physician, and allow the member to choose his own medical attendant, the co-operative idea would