

recommend the prescription of another, charging a round price for the trouble of dispensing it. When it is understood that the physician knows of this, it is not difficult to explain why so few prescriptions are written and why so many prescribers deal out their own medicines.

Aside from the purely business aspects of the question, this inconsiderate self-prescribing is in the highest degree detrimental to the community at large in stimulating an unnecessary consumption of drugs, in the formation of habits which eventually undermine health, and in directly jeopardizing life by the loss of valuable time in the prompt recognition and scientific treatment of many of the dangerous and insidious maladies of which the ordinary patient has no possible knowledge. The profession should always be ready with any information tending toward the prevention of disease, but any attempt directly or indirectly to teach therapeutics is fraught with untold evil to the giver and the receiver. The more the patient is kept in ignorance of the remedies prescribed, the better for him, and certainly, under the circumstances already named, the better for the prescriber. The physician is never called in consultation with his patient, as the very nature of the case precludes the necessity of more than one opinion. The moment any argument is allowed on this point all proper respect for purely professional opinion is lost. This is one of the results of selling the birthright for a mess of pottage. The lesson is one which many of the too-obliging practitioners can take to heart.

ANOMALIES AND CURIOSITIES OF MEDICINE.

This is the title of what promises to be one of the most important works of the present year. It will be published by W. B. Saunders, who has, during the last few years, enriched our medical libraries with such a large variety of valuable works. It will be an encyclopædic collection of rare and extraordinary cases and of the most striking instances of abnormality in all branches of medicine and surgery, derived from an exhaustive research of medical literature from its origin to the present day, abstracted, classified, annotated and indexed by George M. Gould, A.M., M.D., and Walter L. Pyle, A.M., M.D. Several years of exhaustive research have been spent by the authors in the great medical libraries of the United States and Europe in collecting the material for the work. The work, it is said, will be of general interest, outside the profession, to all who