

upon as charity? Do lawyers give free consultations; railways, free rides; or anybody, free anything, because the applicant happens to have hard times, or, indeed, in many instances pretended hard times? There cannot be the slightest doubt that thousands of patients who attend these institutions are quite able to pay their way, and why is it not insisted on. Even lately here we have had opened two more free dispensaries.

Contrast this condition of affairs with the present financial position of most medical men. The stock is very much overdone. Benevolent societies claim their share. Payments, as a rule, are slack, in fact at present bad, and yet many who are able to pay their bills are supplied with both medicine and advice free.

SHOULD THESE THINGS BE?

Some time ago we regaled ourselves by reading in a Western newspaper a long account of an operation for appendicitis in a tiger by a New York specialist. Imbedded in the appendix there was found one of the rims of a pair of spectacles: this was removed along with a large quantity of pus, and at the time of the writing of the above mentioned article, both patient and physician were doing as well as could be expected—the patient, physically, the physician, financially. Almost simultaneously with the above there appeared in one of our Toronto dailies a long description of an operation by an Ontario specialist which was quite as unique in character as the one just mentioned. No doubt these two specialists would call down the wrath of the *gods* upon the editors of these papers; but strange as it may seem, an epitomized account of the operation by the Ontario man appeared in the columns of at least one country newspaper for two weeks hand-running. We trust our friend is “doing as well” as the New Yorker.

Since our last article upon this subject appeared, we have received clippings from newspapers as far east as Prince Edward Island, and some from the west. From these one learns of many forms of petty advertising. A favourite plan seems to be to relate the account of an operation, telling who the

patient is, what the operation was, who did it, and who assisted. If such a state of affairs continues, and, like medical (?) science in its various branches, becomes progressive, the leading citizen must not be surprised to find upon his breakfast table some morning, a neatly engrossed envelope, from which he will extract a still neater card of invitation to an operation upon Mrs. Blank by Dr. Blanker and his Blank assistants.

The other day, upon looking into a so-called “album,” we were not a little amused to meet many familiar faces, under which were little explanatory notes telling who they were, what their position in the profession is, and the many difficulties they had to overcome in the attainment of such an altitude. It would be difficult to say just how much each man paid to have his photo printed, or how many books he guaranteed to take in order to be thus honoured among prominent Canadians. Heretofore we had laboured under the delusion that canvassers for these books confined their attention to clergymen and politicians, but, unfortunately for the dignity of our profession, it seems not. Nor are albums the only place where the average reader is likely to see the picture of his family physician, for of late some of our Toronto papers have been entering us—yea, even in a wholesale manner! Doubtless the men whose photos have already appeared are still wondering (?) how those papers obtained *their* picture.

In a subsequent issue we may have something to say about professional cards and, maybe, handbills.

COUNCIL LEGISLATION.

Dr. McLaughlin says rightly that he is using bold words, and evidently, according to his own judgment, he is quite within his province in using them. But there are always two sides to a question, and surely we may be permitted to look at the other side of the shield, and see if it be made of the same metal as that on which our correspondent has his eyes. To begin with, we wish to say nothing of the Doctor's judgment, as we think he, being a reliable man, speaks as he believes,