

THE DOCTOR'S PROBLEM COLLECTING HIS BILLS

SHOULD a physician go to law to collect his bills? Or, if he feels he cannot go to law, how can he make people pay what they owe for services?

Upon what basis should a physician make his charges? Should he charge the rich man more than the poor man? Or should he attend the poor gratis and charge the rich according to their means? How might doctors solve the financial difficulties in which they often find themselves?

These are questions which are often discussed among physicians; that of collecting bills is one of the most delicate, and often the most difficult, problem in a practitioner's life.

"AMONG physicians it is not considered ethical to go to law," declared a well-known member of the profession recently. "So what is one to do? Let me tell you the monotonous routine of a doctor's life.

He is called to attend a patient. He visits him faithfully, studies his disease, carefully analyzes the symptoms and gives not only medicine, but hours of deep thought, worrying himself and often spending sleepless nights over the case. The doctor may visit the patient for weeks, perhaps months. The patient recovers or he dies.

"And what is the physician to do? If the man lives he ignores his obligation, and if he is dead the relatives pay no attention. Now, if the man lives, enjoying the health which was restored to him through the attention of the doctor, out of gratitude one would think he would gladly pay the physician. But no, the physician is the last man to get paid. The baker, butcher and candlestickmaker all come first.

"It is outrageous when one thinks that the man whose services are the most invaluable is the last one to be paid. Yes, a man will pay all his debts by April 1, but he'll forget all about the family physician.

"Many physicians seem to favor the idea of legal protection. If there were a law in force which would give the physician first claim upon a man's estate the position of the medical creditor would be greatly strengthened, they say.

Difficult is the financial end of a doctor's life, according to members of the profession. On the books of nearly every doctor are unpaid accounts; in fact, some physicians declare that as many as one-third to one-half the persons they treat are either tardy in payment or do not pay at all. After struggling with this problem, the next question with which he must face is the rate of charges. Regarding the work and pay of doctors, a famous physician recently declared:

July 1st 1908

Dr. REGINALD PILLBOX, M. D., Dr.

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NOTICE TO DEBTORS

"No one should adopt the profession of medicine as a business. The first and most potent consideration in undertaking the life-work of a physician should be the usefulness of one of helping those in physical affliction. It is not too much to expect that in the near future the life-work of a physician should be the existence of preventable disease will be made to cease. To be sure, the state will, or should, always play the chief role, but, in the meantime, the material of which legislators are made becomes less venal or more wise. Meanwhile, in every community composed of average human beings, wisdom and knowledge in physical conduct who shall be equipped with both knowledge and forcefulness, and who, if possible, be of amiable disposition, and who not only shall succor the lame, the halt, the diseased, turn the fool from the rich deserts of his folly, into an inhibitory famous retreat, and the acts of the unwise, both individual and joint, and throttle health-destroyers—human or demonic—in the pursuit of his chosen line of duty, the physician has great need to possess large capacities, powers, wisdom, knowledge, and attainment, that he may be ready to give his undivided attention to a quest which, while perfectly possible of attainment, has never been a realization. To fit himself for his life-work requires exceptional traits, years of training and the ceaseless exercise of judgment night and day.

"He also must live; he has a right to — the enjoyment of social privileges and emoluments with the man who tills the ground, digs the ore or sets the shoring human savages by the care to their own rewardings and his financial betterment, or the one who manipulates the market where the lamb yields their fleece. It would indeed seem that all his patients, his years of dangerous toil, ought to be highly rewarded. Health and life are, especially in the hour of great peril, for a brief period regarded as of more account than mere material acquisitions.

All this tends to show that a capable, conscientious, experienced medical adviser is a boon to any community, and should be provided with full returns for his labor, time, skill and strength. When once his capabilities are demonstrated, his experience ripened, his earning capacity ought to increase, not lessen. He gives his time and energies freely to the very poor. The rich man, who has more than enough, should pay in proportion to his means.

"It is asserted by some that the fees should be fixed at a maximum, and made less for those who are unable to pay the highest. The nature of service varies widely; ordinary medical attention may be put upon this basis, but not that special service whereby large difficulties are overcome. Where the physician is a general practitioner and the specialist, particularly the surgeon, is chiefly due to the fact that the public is not taught to value good medical attention as it does much self-abnegation, immolation, on the altar of duty, of occasion, and of the troubles of others, in his life. Moreover, the prejudices of the community are quick to press upon a physician who attempts to do business to press the strict line of his vocation.

"His opportunities to achieve a fortune are few and far between. When the fulness of his powers, the ripeness of his judgment, the physician is right to charge as large fees as he is capable of getting. He should not be deterred from doing so by the competition of those whose abilities are manifestly less. The community owes him protection, appreciation and rewards.

"In a certain town, prosperous enough, the physicians found that, owing to the force of circumstances, they were compelled to reduce their fees to such a level that it became impossible for them to earn a livelihood; their families suffered grievously.

"They, by junction called a meeting of certain leading experienced business men and laid the matter frankly before them. A committee was formed of these gentlemen and the whole subject fully ventilated. These men of practical affairs were asked to decide what were reasonable fees for that locality.

"From this conference a fee table was prepared, exhibiting a maximum and minimum scale for ordinary conditions. Below the lowest scale, the committee advised the giving of advice gratis. This is a most admirable plan, strengthening the hands of the profession in all ways. Conditions in different places must differ and care thus be best used."

NOW I AM WELL THANKS TO "FRUIT-A-TIVES"



Elm, Manitoba.
I wish to state, for the sake of others who may be suffering like I was, that I suffered from severe indigestion and constipation for years and that there was also womb trouble with unpleasant pains in my back which made me miserable, constantly. I tried physicians and took many remedies but I got no relief. I was induced to try "Fruit-a-tives" and I can truly say this was the first medicine that ever did me any good. "Fruit-a-tives" quickly relieved the constipation and indigestion and completely cured me of all symptoms of womb trouble. I cannot express too strongly my great gratitude to this medicine as I am as well now in every way as ever I was, thanks to "Fruit-a-tives". I can strongly recommend "Fruit-a-tives". It is easy to take and the effect is always mild like fruit.
(Sgd) Mrs. M. BARNARD.

Many women suffer with what the doctors call "Womb Trouble"—"Diseased Ovaries"—"Female Complaints"—etc.—when Constipation is causing all the pain. Cure the liver and make the bowels move regularly with "Fruit-a-tives" and the "Womb Trouble" will be cured at the same time. "Fruit-a-tives"—or "Fruit Liver Tablets" are sold by dealers at 50c a box—6 for \$2.50—or will be sent on receipt of price. Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.



More proof that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound restores women to normal health. Mrs. Henry Clark, Glandford Station, Ont., writes to Mrs. Pinkham: "I have taken Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for years, and never found any medicine to compare with it for sick women."

"I had ulcers and a displacement of the feminine organs, and doctors did me no good. I suffered dreadfully until I began taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It has cured me, and also helped other sick women to whom I have recommended it."

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Don't hesitate to write to Mrs. Pinkham if there is anything about your sickness you do not understand. She will treat your letter in confidence and advise you free. No woman ever regretted writing her, and because of her vast experience she has helped thousands. Address, Lynn, Mass.

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Valuable property on corner of Fitzroy and Queen Streets. The undersigned offers for private sale his double tenement brick house and store with large lot and stables adjoining A. Horne's residence. If not sold at private sale by August 1st, 1908, it will then be offered at public auction.

For particulars apply Nelson Younker on the premises or
BENJ. CARTER,
Auctioneer.
4-25dwatf.

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SUCCESSOR TO
MURRAY & CO.,
155 Kent St., Charlottetown.
AGENTS WANTED
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NOTICE

The Willard Kitchen Co., Ltd., have secured a large contract on the Trans-continental in New Brunswick. Their headquarters are at Grand Falls, N. B. This firm is well known on Prince Edward Island, as they built the Murray Harbor Branch, as well as the Montague Branch, and they would be glad to have any Island men or boys who want employment, communicate with them to their Grand Falls, N. B., address. They have about three years work in sight at present.
5-20drwim.

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HONEYMOON IN ARABIA

For seven days after the wedding Arab bride and bridegroom are supposed not to leave their room. The bride may see none of her own family, only the women of her own household, and she must wear a black and white wedding finery and paint and do absolutely nothing. The bridegroom generally slips out at night after three days and sees a few friends privately, but he persistently hides from his wife's family, and she is forbidden to meet his father-in-law before ten seven days are over. He turns his back and draws his burrows or hack, over his face. This is their view of a honeymoon and they grow as weary of it as any European couple do of their enforced Continental tour.

TALK WITHOUT WORDS IN NOISY CARS.

As a personal dislike, the dislike of talking against the clatter of travel may be mentioned. And here comes in the one-hand deaf and dumb alphabet, it reads right or left, as you please. The fingers and thumb with the arm will do it. And you can talk surely, swiftly, while you hold your newspaper, while the other hand is on the noise of life increases, our throats will have to give in and our fingers do the talking—Correspondence of the London "Globe."

THE HORSE GUARDS' MOTOR.

The old and somewhat time-worn motor on the Horse Guards' Parade which is receiving a much-needed coat of fresh paint just now, has an interesting history. This piece of ordinary was placed in position on Aug. 12 1916, and is a relic of the Benin Campaign, having been employed at the bombardment of Cadix. It was last used during the famous retreat of Marshal Soult, and thus came possession of the Spanish military authorities. By this it was presented to the prince regent as a souvenir of the war. His Royal Highness graciously accepted the gift and ordered it to be mounted on the Horse Guards' Parade with a view to thus commemorating the years success of the British arms under the Duke of Wellington in Spain—Westminster Gazette.

FASHIONS CHANGE IN CHINA.

Fashions are beginning to change even in Kwangsi. The other day an English speaking Chinese student from Canton, but a native of this city, called upon me. He was fairly well dressed in foreign style. I asked him if the people started much and he said no, but he dressed crowd round to look at when he and his brother from Japan took their sisters out for a walk! In fact they were so much annoyed by the crowd that appeared, not very successfully, to the police.

Fashions are changing in other respects also. There is a movement on foot now to establish an athletic club for members of the various schools and colleges. When we arrived it was late in the afternoon, and soon after in the stillness of the evening hour, we heard sort of chant which was completely out to be a patriotic torches in the schools close by.

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For Sale or to Rent

The two storey Building on Water Street formerly occupied as a Laundry is now being fitted up as a store and warehouse and will be ready to occupy about the 1st May next.

Apply to
PEAKE BROS & Co
4-25dttatf.

Mortgage Sale

OF
"The Old London Property" in Charlottetown

There will be sold by Public Auction on the premises in Charlottetown, on FRIDAY, the fifth day of June A. D. 1908, at the hour of Twelve o'clock noon. All that tract, piece and parcel of land situate lying and being in Charlottetown in Prince Edward Island, bounded and described as follows, that is to say: Commencing on the north side of Water Street at the distance of one hundred and Thirty-one feet and six inches Eastwardly from the East side of Queen Street, thence North parallel with Queen Street aforesaid a distance of Eighty-four feet, thence East and parallel with Water Street aforesaid a distance of one hundred and Thirty-four feet to Water Street and thence West along Water Street Fifty-six feet to the place of beginning together with the use of a right of way eight feet wide along the Eastern side of the land hereby described and extending from Water Street to the rear of said land a distance of Eighty-four feet.

The above sale is made under and by virtue of and pursuant to a Power of Sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the Twenty-fifth day of May A. D. 1899, made between John P. Joy of Charlottetown in Queen's County Saloon keeper of the one part and Edward Jarvis Hodgson of Charlottetown aforesaid Master of the Rolls of the other part and Master of default having been made in payment of the principal moneys secured thereby.

Should the above lands not be sold on the day of sale, the same will thereafter be disposed of at private sale on application to Hassard, Gaudet & Hassard Solicitors etc, Charlottetown.

Dated this 5th day of May A. D. 1908,
EDWARD JARVIS HODGSON,
5-6dw4t,
Mortgagee.

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