

when both are at work the lawyer is expected to charge as much for the work of a few hours in preparing a single document as the internist would receive from the same person for a month of patient, skillful attention, where life and not money was at stake. It is strictly true that the internist is constantly assuming responsibilities equal to those of any surgeon; that his ability to do so and the fortunate outcome result from an investment of time and study and work and actual danger demanded of no other profession, and that the rewards he is expected to demand are generally insignificant in comparison with those customary in another more easily attained and equally patronized profession. An incident occurring in a Southern city some years ago illustrates the point. An eminent lawyer wrote a deed to a valuable piece of property for an equally eminent physician, and charged one hundred dollars "for knowing how to do it right." The doctor paid the bill, but after a time the lawyer became very ill one night and sent for our doctor, who promptly relieved him. When he presented a bill for one hundred dollars there was great indignation. "You were not with me two hours, doctor!" "You wrote my deed in half an hour, Mr. ———, and charged me an hundred dollars." "But that was different!" "Yes, it *was* different. With printed forms, like yours, for his guide, and a certificate of a clear chain of title, like mine, furnished him, any educated man could learn to write such a deed in a day, but it took me years and cost me thousands of dollars to learn how to know what was the matter with you and how to relieve you, and perhaps to save your life. Yes, sir! It *was* different." And the lawyer saw the point.

Moreover, the doctor must devote a very large percentage of his time and ability to the service of people who can pay little or nothing, and though "treasures in heaven" are an excellent investment they are unavailing for current expenses. Therefore he justly requires the rich man to pay according to his ability and

allows the poor man the same privilege. The people should be educated to recognize the justice of remunerating the internist on the same principle that is now so generally adopted in dealing with the surgeon. And the internist himself must be the teacher.

#### INDIRECT ADVERTISING.

When a daily paper publishes a laudatory article about a certain hospital, and speaks of the fact that "the leading surgeons of the town are kept busy in the operating room," that is all right. No discrimination is shown. All are treated alike and in an impersonal manner. But when the article goes on to say that no less than so-and-so-many patients are to the credit of one particular surgeon, describing him as the "leading surgeon," saying that "his patients come from all over the State," and that "his reputation is well known throughout" a certain specified and extensive division thereof, the matter assumes a different character and becomes a most insidious and unfair form of advertising. Such an article appeared recently in a certain city paper, probably entirely without the knowledge or consent of the doctor so lauded.

True, the name of this "leading physician," to whom such a majority of the patients are said to come for operations, is not specified. But in order that there may be no misunderstanding which might cause some one to suffer the pangs of curiosity, the name of a well known and popular citizen upon whom he performed "a trivial operation" is given by the reporter, as well as that of a lady, "a prominent resident of this city." Lest those might not be sufficiently distinctive the names and addresses of seven others, "all these" under his care, are specified.

Curiously enough, no patients are spoken of by this newspaper save those who employed this famous cognito.

Of a verity the newspaper friends of the gentleman have succeeded, locally, in cutting down the tree of medical ethics and driving the

fabled wearer of cloven feet round its stump at a rate of speed that has seldom been equaled and never exceeded. Such an indirect advertisement should be promptly disowned by its supposed beneficiary, and in a manner as public as the offense.

---

#### "VIRGINIA'S ROLL OF LIFE AND DEATH."

The above legend, in heavy Roman capitals, forms the center of the front cover page of the Virginia Health *Bulletin* for November, 1913. The pamphlet contains fourteen pages, and is devoted to telling the citizens of Virginia why such health work is necessary, what it will do for the people, and something of what it has already revealed.

Until a year ago no general record of births and deaths, mortality of diseases or their distribution was kept in the State, though a few cities had partial records of births and deaths. It is estimated that during this first year of enforcement of the registration laws, 90 per cent of all deaths and 83 per cent of all births have been reported. This seems to the JOURNAL a very satisfactory beginning for such an undertaking, scattered as are the localities from which the reports must come and varied as are the people who make them. One important item, full of grim significance, is that "the reported death rates among the whites of the State was 11.4, while the rate among the negroes was 19.1," almost, but not quite two to one. A remarkable feature disclosed is the number of children born dead in the State during the twelve months, 2,291, about equally divided between white and colored. During the year 145 persons died of pellagra, and there were 245 homicides.

Altogether, "Virginia's Roll of Life and Death" makes interesting reading for the medical man and the student of statecraft.

---

#### JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

What promises to be a notable occasion is

planned for the 14th of October, 1914, which is the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore. There is to be a reunion of the trustees of the Johns Hopkins University and Hospital, the officers and members of the staff, and all teachers and former students, continuing through four days. At the same time it is expected that the lectures on the "Herter Foundation" will be delivered.

There will be various addresses, hospital rounds, demonstrations and other features of interests, including class reunions and a dinner. Dr. Osler will be present and participate in the exercises.

The "Committee of Announcement" includes Doctors Welch, Halsted, Hurd and Kelly. They desire the presence of former members of the Hospital or Medical School staff, and of former students or graduates of the Medical School.

No institution in the world can boast of greater achievements in a quarter of a century than the Johns Hopkins, and the graduates of no other school have made a more enviable record. Loyalty and devotion to their alma mater are characteristics of the Johns Hopkins graduate, and the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary will be an extraordinary event in the history of that great Southern medical institution.

---

#### ECHOES FROM THE LEXINGTON MEETING.

The JOURNAL presents three excerpts from contemporary medical publications with pleasure and pride, pleasure because they indicate that the excellence and importance of the work of the Southern Medical Association is so widely recognized, and pride because the usefulness of its own efforts to upbuild the organization is so kindly acknowledged.

Its highest ambition has been to receive from the Association its seal of approval. Seldom has a more impersonal undertaking been assumed than that of this JOURNAL when it de-