

Now, Forster states that the Goldsmith family moved from Pallasmore in 1730, "to a respectable house and farm on the verge of the pretty little village of Lissoy, 'in the County of Westmeath, barony of Kilkenny West,' some six miles from Pallasmore, and about midway between the towns of Ballymahon and Athlone." From this it would appear that the poet was born after the removal from Pallas.

In my opinion, the dates given by Dr. Morris and other biographers of Goldsmith are not quite accurate.

Yours very truly, GEORGE LANE MULLINS, M.A., M.D.
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Medical Grievances.

NEW YORK, July 18, 1896.

To the Editor:—I respectfully submit the prevailing grievances of the profession, as near as I have been enabled to collect them:

1. Medical appointments in free hospitals, dispensaries, maternities and other medical charities, lodges, societies or clubs, free visiting physicians of boards of health and daily newspapers, vaccination by boards of health, drug store charities, free advice in newspapers, etc., shall be made under the supervision of our medical associations. These associations should appoint committees or engage persons to investigate the financial responsibility of all recipients of charity and collect accordingly. These sums to be applied to a general fund, which should be devoted to the assistance of needy practitioners.

2. The duration of medical appointments in institutions to be so regulated that all applicants shall have equal opportunities to serve.

3. Charitable medical institutions should not have the power to make rules prohibitive as regards the profession in general or to employ offensive officers in their buildings.

4. Directors have no right to be overbearing toward attending physicians.

5. Physicians in hospitals or dispensaries, professors, lecturers and instructors should avoid making derogatory statements concerning other physicians.

6. There is a too prevalent disregard of our code of ethics. If members were disciplined for slight offences, graver ones would be avoided.

7. Many patients, who are in moderate circumstances, but not poor, prefer the skillful attendance obtained at our modern free institutions, with their perfect appointments, to that of the young medical beginner in private practice.

8. Hospital authorities have no right to refuse a patient admission because the diagnosis was made by a physician not connected with the institution. A physician does not wish his patient's case re-diagnosed and remarked on by any but the prospective operator or chief in the institution.

9. A physician, once given an appointment for an unlimited period, should not have his office vacated without the acquiescence of our medical associations.

10. Physicians having medical appointments should not be guilty of improper practices.

11. If a patient is temporarily in financial difficulties and visits a charitable institution, it is not proper to say that he or she is "nobody's patient" for that reason.

12. Physicians should not send patients to charitable institutions unnecessarily. Many operations can just as well be done at home, with proper assistance, and had better be accepted for a smaller fee, or referred to a neighbor who will.

13. Directors of free hospitals should be prohibited from making store-to-store canvasses for the purpose of soliciting members, and incidentally to laud the virtues of their institutions and their members. Women should be prohibited from making house-to-house visits for the purpose of collecting

charity for certain hospitals, and incidentally acting as solicitors for the institutions and their associated physicians.

14. Midwives should be prohibited from acting in any capacity beyond that of nurse, unless they have a complete obstetric education.

15. A physician dare not prescribe for the purpose of producing a criminal abortion; yet a druggist may sell "remedies" to his heart's content. Thousands of abortions are occurring annually.

16. Druggists sell therapeutic preparations for all ailments. When charged with prescribing, they contend that it was only for an emergency, which is legally allowable.

17. Patients with contagious disease are indiscriminately brought in contact with healthy customers in drug-store dispensaries.

18. It should be considered a breach of ethics for a physician to prescribe or recommend patent medicines, proprietary articles or drugs which have been untried in hospital or dispensary practice, or to recommend quacks or charlatans, or their remedies.

19. Physicians should not compound their own medicines or furnish tablets. These practices have a deteriorating influence.

20. Physicians should be discouraged from furnishing certificates of competence to midwives and nurses.

21. College appointments should be made solely for efficiency.

22. Association meetings should not be controlled by certain groups of members, to the exclusion of the remainder. All members should receive equal opportunities to address the meeting.

23. Associations should not devote all their energies to some professional offence affecting a few members, while ignoring the grievances of the mass of the profession.

24. The adoption of polyspecialism is not fair toward the mass of specialists. A professor on one subject should confine himself to that specialty alone.

25. "Indirect" professional advertising has been complained of.

26. The medical press should be freely accessible to the profession on all occasions and at all times.

Audi alteram partem.

S. B.

The Oppenheimer Drink-cure in Bellevue Hospital and Gen. O'Beirne's Letter.

To the Editor:—Herewith is given *in extenso* the rejoinder of Charity Commissioner O'Beirne, in response to charges of collusion between the board, which he represents, and the new remedy for alcoholism.

The action of the Commissioners in this matter has been much the subject of two virulent attacks by the *Medical News* of July 18 and 24; but, after all, on cooler reflection, there does not seem to be any substantial ground for the charges made against the Commissioners. The medical profession should for once and all time, cast aside prejudices, and when a regular member of the profession, after proper testing and experimenting, offers a remedy for trial in a public hospital, before announcing it in general details to the profession at large, he should be permitted the fullest liberties in this direction. This was done in Paris, with Pasteur's attenuated virus for hydrophobia; with Roux's antitoxin serum in Charité and Koch's tuberculin in the Moabit Hospital and the Berlin Institute, for months, before its composition was revealed to the professional world. From what can be gathered from reliable and impartial sources, nothing further than this is being done at Bellevue, as the following communication from Commissioner Jas. R. O'Beirne in the *New York Herald*, July 20, clearly shows:

"The statements under caption of 'No Cure for Drink,' in your issue of to-day, are not true in point of fact. As I know the *Herald* aims to present only facts, I take occasion to say,