

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The prospects of the medical profession in the Argentine Republic, as related in the *South American Journal*, are of an unusually satisfactory character; and in these days, when the cry of overcrowding is heard from every profession (and the medical profession is no exception), the following statements will be read with refreshing interest, and give to the despairing hope.

"All the medical men here are said to be making fortunes, and there is still room for 'healthy competition.'

"The ordinary charge for a consultation at a medical man's house is said to be two dollars (about 8s.); for a visit, four dollars, say 16s.; for attendance at confinement when all goes well, about £20; but when any special care or operation is required, these fees mount up to hundreds of pounds. Accounts for medical attendance are sent in and paid without remark, which would make the hair of a paterfamilias in the 'old country' stand on end. My friend mentions the following fees as having been lately obtained by doctors who, though of good standing, are not looked on as 'stars' for extraction of ovarian tumour, £1,200; amputation of arm, principal, £600; amputation of arm, two assistants, each, £400; delivery with operation, £400; attendance during typhoid fever, £200; visit by a physician for dropsy, £50; consultation-fees, £20 and upwards.

"Much depends, of course, on the position of the patient, but there are sufficient wealthy people to make up for any small fees or gratuitous work which may have to be done among the poorer classes.

"Nor are we led to believe that there are any serious drawbacks to this pleasant outlook. The Argentine Republic, which, as is well known, comprises a vast area of fertile territory, extending from the tropics down to Cape Horn, with a firm and settled government, has a climate pronounced to be one of the most temperate in the world, and should be the healthiest; but, owing to defective sanitary arrangements, it is not so. Buenos Ayres, with a population of about 300,000, has a mortality of 33, which it may reasonably be expected will be considerably lessened in view of the extensive drainage and waterworks now in course of construction.

"Expenses are, of course, much higher in South America than in Europe, and it would be unwise to compare charges in two places without taking this into consideration.

"In the city of Buenos Ayres, there are said to be now practising about a dozen English-speaking doctors, all doing well. In other large cities of the interior and in the country, there are a good number to be found. But immigration is flowing into the country, and everything growing so fast, that there seems to be no fear of overcrowding.

"Owing to the facilities offered in the government schools and universities, a young man in the Argentine Republic obtains a complete education free from all expenses in fees. The medical schools are well attended, and the natives prove apt scholars. The standard (so far as my friend can judge, he not being of the medical profession) seems to be as high as in European universities, and there are many Argentine doctors who would take a high rank in their profession in any part of the world. Besides these native-taught doctors, there are in practice in the Argentine Republic many medical men of every European nationality; and, at a first glance, one would think that the profession was rather overcrowded.

"However, when one sees that nearly all the doctors are making fortunes, and hears of the enormous fees which they can easily obtain, he perceives that there is still room for 'healthy competition.'

"The statements given above are confirmed by another correspondent, who states that a friend of his paid £100 for attendance at the confinement of his wife; and adds that the charges by dentists are on a like magnificent scale, as much as £5 or £6 being paid for stopping a tooth. There, however, appears to be one important condition: before a doctor is allowed to practise in the Argentine Republic, he must pass an examination, and be licensed by the Government Medical Board; and before he can do this he must, of course, be master of the Spanish language. The population of the country is so cosmopolitan, that the more modern languages he speaks, the better will be his chances of success."

CARRIAGES FOR MEDICAL MEN.

Sir,—I have frequently seen the question asked in the *JOURNAL*, "What is the best trap for a country practitioner?" I unhesitatingly reply the single two-wheeled gig, but, unfortunately, these are not so comfortable as one would wish (at least the majority of them).

Requiring a conveyance, I, a few months ago, ordered a 'Premier' gig, built by Messrs. Harrison and Brass, of Elgin, and find it to be highly satisfactory. It is the most comfortable carriage I ever sat in, being roomy, with a good rest for the back, elegant in appearance, yet strong and substantial, well balanced, and of light draught, while the springs are so constructed as to avoid any jolting, even over the roughest roads. For comfort and expedition in travelling, I do not know of its equal. I look upon it as *par excellence* the country doctor's trap.—Yours, etc.,
D. CHARLES COX.
Annan.

LACTATE OF LEAD.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes to know if any of our readers could inform him how the liquor plumbi lactatis is prepared, and how it is therapeutically administered.

TORONTO UNIVERSITY.—1. It is difficult to advise; the fees under such circumstances, would vary very much. £500 to £750 for the whole term would not be unreasonable. 2. Yes; it is customary to pay half fees, unless there be an arrangement for a fixed sum.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

An Introduction to the Study of the Diseases of the Nervous System. By T. Grainger Stewart, M.D. Edinburgh: Bell and Bradfute. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., and Adams and Co.
Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Collins, printer, 705, Jayne Street.
Fifth Annual Report of the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, of Massachusetts. Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Company.
Charley Kingston's Aunt. By Pen Oliver. London: Macmillan and Co.
The Care of Infants. By Sophia Jex-Blake, M.D. London: Macmillan and Co.

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