

WHERE DOCTORS THRIVE

AND THE PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY AND LONG LIVED.

Halifax Seems to Have a Superfluity of Physicians—Some of Them Manage to Pick up Excellent Salaries—A List of the Most Prominent Doctors.

HALIFAX, Nov. 18.—This city is well supplied with physicians. We have at least a dozen more than are needed, and there are nearly a dozen score of our doctors who make nothing more than a bare living. With a population under 40,000, we have well nigh fifty practitioners of medicine. What aggravates the situation from the physician's point of view, is that Halifax is an unusually difficult city in which to get a practice—not because it is a particularly healthy city, though we have nothing to complain of in this respect, but because of our many agencies for free ministrations to the "body diseased." The Halifax dispensary gives free medical attendance to the poorest class in the community, the doctors engaged in that philanthropy doing a noble work. Through the Halifax dispensary no less than 5,000 of our inhabitants receive the services of physicians. These people could not pay for the attendance, and in many cases, were it not for the dispensary's beneficent intervention they would suffer and often die; they would have no kindly doctor to mitigate their sufferings or help nature to regain health; there would be nothing done to make less agonizing the pillow of the dying poor.

Another invasion of the ordinary ground of the practicing physicians by the Victoria general hospital, the wards of which are open wide to hundreds of patients who either do not or cannot pay for their maintenance or attendance there. Besides this our largest hospital, there is the Halifax infirmary, which, however, receives no free patients though patients are taken in at a lower rate than at the Victoria. Dr. Slater also has a private hospital, lastly, a hospital second only in size to the Victoria, is the military station hospital, where the sick and injured among the garrison are ministered to.

The proportion of physicians to population, therefore, is something like one to 700 or 800 people, and yet an excellent institution, the Halifax medical college, keeps annually turning out graduates till one wonders where on earth the next year's crop will find a place of judgment. Sixty students are now attending the medical college yet though the competition is so keen, of the fifty physicians in this city, there are a few who make almost princely incomes, that is incomes of \$6,000 or \$7,000 a year can be called "princely." One well posted in this subject gives "PROGRESS" the following figures, which possibly, however, may be somewhat above the work.

At the top of the profession financially speaking at least, comes Dr. Farrell, who collects annually, so it is said, about \$7,000, but who has accumulated less wealth than some of his brother medicals with less than half the income. His father, Dominick Farrell, is wealthy but he never did much for the son and made him early hustle for himself. It was uphill work with Dr. Farrell before his practice became lucrative, but now that he has been twenty years a physician in Halifax this Dartmouth boy has reached the top rung in Halifax and has the largest medical income. He graduated at the New York college of physicians and surgeons and in his earlier days did much for the Halifax dispensary and other local philanthropies.

The man who perhaps makes one of the next highest incomes is Dr. W. M. Cameron. He is a self-made Pictou county man and before he began the study of medicine was a member of the Halifax police force. There have been years when Dr. Cameron's income was greater than that of any other Halifax physician, with his practice large among the middle class. He is not an old man but of late years has taken things easier and probably makes less money than formerly, though still he may collect between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a year. Years ago Dr. Cameron was an enthusiast in aquatic sports in which he yet retains much interest.

Dr. N. E. McKay ranks among the big income physicians, collecting some \$5,000 annually. He is well off and has saved a snug sum. He is a Cape Bretoner and began his practice in Charlottetown where he labored with indifferent success. In Halifax he has achieved distinction as a surgeon. Dr. McKay is known as a hard fighter when he takes sides, and he is a good hater when his anger is aroused; in politics he is a liberal, having contested Victoria county for the house of commons.

Then comes W. S. Slayter, whose practice is with a so-called "good class" which he has made successful. He has devoted considerable attention to surgery and the diseases of women. The Victoria hospital and Halifax medical college have received much attention from him. His studies were particularly carried on in England and he has degrees from the college of physicians and surgeons in London, where he was house surgeon at Westminster hospital. Dr. Slayter has two sons in medicine and he makes \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year.

Dr. D. A. Campbell has the reputation of being the best read physician in Halifax,

and he loves his profession for itself. He has done splendid work in the Halifax medical college and Victoria hospital, from which latter institution he some time ago resigned. He has studied and made interesting researches at Johns Hopkins college. His brother George M., a graduate of New York is in partnership with him, and between the two they collect between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a year. In Halifax, as probably everywhere else, fully 25 per cent. of the fees entered on a physician's books are never collected. Dr. D. A. Campbell is surgeon to the 63rd Rifles. Dr. G. M., as he is called, was tutor in mathematics at Dalhousie, and with his brother is associate editor of the Maritime Medical News.

For the past 11 or 12 years Dr. M. A. Currie, a Windsor boy, has been practicing in Halifax. He graduated in New York and made a couple of trips to England for study. He has a "taking" manner and has succeeded in getting a slice of south end practice worth some \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year, and besides he is interested in the Victoria hospital and Halifax college. He married Miss Robertson of St. John. Dr. Currie is surgeon to the 66th P. L. F.

Dr. Murdock Chisholm, a Cape Bretoner, has a large north-end practice and often he is called south. He graduated at McGill and studied in London. Dr. Chisholm is a great theologian. His income is between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

Dr. John Stewart has recently come to Halifax from Pictou. He had a distinguished career as a student in Edinburgh under Lister, with whom afterwards he was associated in hospital work in London. He has the reputation of being one of the most skillful surgeons in Canada. Dr. Stewart has arranged with the other surgeons of Halifax to follow only a consulting practice.

Dr. Cowie is supposed to be well-off; worth at least \$50,000. He has had a large "family practice" though lately he has not been so active, yet he is still pretty keen. Probably he now collects between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a year, visiting a good class of people.

Dr. Anderson graduated in Edinburgh and London, and a few years ago came here from Yarmouth. He is said to be careful and conscientious, though that is a remark that applies to most of our doctors, and he has achieved considerable success.

Dr. J. F. Black in the order of seniority and prominence should have been mentioned ere this, but he is one of the few bachelors among the crowd, which may account for the fact that he was temporarily forgotten. Dr. Black comes of a Halifax medical family, his father having been a practitioner in the old days. He has a good family practice worth \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year.

Dr. T. R. Almon comes of an essentially medical family. The Almons are among our oldest and best people, who have been in the medical profession in Halifax for more than a century. His father is the Honorable Senator W. J. Almon, M. D. and his grandfather was also a physician. Dr. Almon is surgeon to the H. G. A.

Dr. H. H. Read is the only homoeopath of prominence in the city. In his earlier years he belonged to the regular school, but was converted, though they say he is only half converted after all. His practice brings him in from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year.

Dr. Thomas Trenaman, city medical officer, makes in addition to his civic appointments perhaps \$3,000 a year.

Dr. A. W. Lindsay is warmly interested in the Halifax medical college, is physician to the Ladies college, and in addition to what he makes from those positions collects perhaps \$2,000.

Dr. W. N. Wickwire is out of active practice. He is a son-in-law of the late Hon. Alexander Keith, who founded Keith's brewery, and of which the Dr. is manager. He is referee for several insurance companies.

Dr. Oliver a retired army doctor, has a good practice. The medical specialist in this city has invaded Halifax, encroaching on the ground of the ordinary practitioner. This is doubtless because it is not possible for a man with a general practice to familiarize himself with the elaborate methods of examination and treatment which have come into use during the past quarter of a century. Of these specialists Dr. E. A. Kirkpatrick has achieved a marked success in the eye and ear department. He comes from King's county, graduated at McGill, and studied in New York. He has a large provincial practice, and is assistant surgeon to the 66th P. L. F., and makes \$5,000 a year. Dr. Peirman also has a large specialist practice.

The foregoing are the physicians in Halifax who are most prominent, and who make the most money, but the others who comprise the list of fifty, are, most of them, good faithful men. As already stated many of them barely make a living, but many of those not mentioned are doing very well indeed and are not only living well, but are acquiring a competence to enjoy in advancing years, or for their children to profit by.

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TRADE ON WHEELS.

Ways in Which Bicycles Have Been Made Mercantile Carriers.

The idea that the bicycle and tricycle craze would prove a mere temporary mad like golf, or roller skating, has given place in the public mind to a conviction that cycling machines in their infinite variety have come to stay. Wise men are grasping the fact that the popular method of propulsion may be turned to account for business purposes. The butcher, the baker, and the candle-stick maker unite in seeking forms of the wheel which will at once advertise their wares and save their money. The result is what may be called the applied bicycle. To-day there are bicycle cigar shops, bicycle barber shops, bicycle street pianos, bicycle baby carriages, and even bicycle hearses. The list is well nigh endless.

An enterprising New York electrician was one of the pioneers of applied cycling. Formerly he sought custom in the highways and byways, seated in a spring wagon. Now he has fitted up what he calls a perambulating electrical shop. It is a wagon with three wheels, of which the first formerly belonged to a bicycle. This operates through a slit in the flooring, and is deflected to right or left by means of the bicycle handle. The electrician propels his strange contrivance from within, by means of pedals and a sprocket chain, connecting with the rear wheels. Thus installed, and surrounded by gaudy lettering calling attention to his skill as a bell hanger and general electrical expert, the owner pedals about the metropolis.

A barber of Gravesend, L. I. whose customers lies among scattered farmsteads, has exchanged his horse and buggy, for a bicycle barber chair.

The most gorgeous enterprise of the tricycle description is an electrically lighted cigar store, on wheels which is now being propelled by its owner about the streets of Berlin, Germany. The cigar salesman pedals around in search of customers. The body of the vehicle consists of a box which is used to carry storage batteries. The box is surmounted by a handsome glass case in which the cigars and tobacco are exhibited. In front of the case are the necessary apparatus for lighting and clipping off the ends of cigars. Above all is a frame work carrying a series of incandescent lamps which set off the enterprise at night and attract customers to it. In the neighborhood of the cafes and theatres this very modern tobaccoist does a thriving business.

One of the latest adaptations of the tricycle to affairs of trade is in the line of the street piano. The value of these instruments as money makers and for popularizing new music has already been pointed out. Out of respect to geographical distance they have seldom strayed far from metropolitan centres. Therefore, they are sure to be a revelation in backwood districts. An Italian with advanced ideas has become impressed with this fact, and has given an order to a piano manufacturing firm in New York for a tricycle street piano. He intends to stick to the unworked country districts, travelling from village to village and from town to town.

Allied to the tricycle street piano is the tricycle baby carriage. A man in upper New York city has arranged it, and there is now a constant struggle among the members of his family to see which one will give the baby his airing. It involves the principle of a new style of bicycle in which the handle bar is behind, the rider, the handles occupying a position at the sides and coming around in front just enough to allow the cyclist to grasp them and sit upright.

On the New York boulevard, which is eminently a thoroughfare of wheels, a pink lemonade vender operates a tricycle, which is also a carrier for his stock in trade. The large water cooler which holds his concoction of aniline and lemon juice is on a platform behind the seat. As a rule he halts by the wayside, and so dispenses his cooling draught to weary cyclists, but he has been known on special occasions to draw a glassful of lemonade and hand it over to a thirsty wheelman who pedalled a long by his side.

The idea of the bicycle lawn mower was long ago put into practice by a New York State man, who found that it worked very well on level ground, but that it was apt to overturn its rider, when operated on the side of a hill. It has since been improved upon, and is now capable of cutting grass on any slope that will hold an ordinary safety bicycle which pedalled sideways to the hill. The rider, of course, sits upright under all circumstances, the mower alone adjusting itself to the slope. Practically the affair is a unicycle, with a mowing apparatus attached in front. It might be classed as a tricycle, but the wheels of the mower would have to complete the assumption.

A tin peddler who frequents the rural districts of Pennsylvania has sold his horse

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(No. 1)
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and used the proceeds in having bicycle wheels and pedals put to his cart. This is a far cry into the future, for a country peddler without his horse and cart seems as strange and incongruous as smoke without fire. His expenses, however, are now minimized, and his profits have received a corresponding increase. The wear and tear on the outfit is as nothing compared to the expense of stabling a horse in a different place every night. The time consumed in travelling from village to village also is much less than under the old method.

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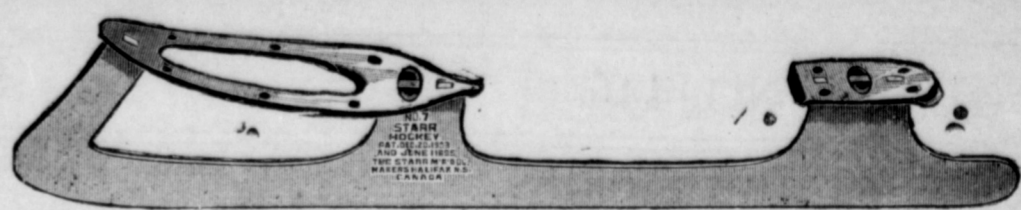
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