ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE

STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The First Day of the Twenty-first Annual Session.

An Able Address by the President, W. R. Cluness—Mayor Comstock Welcomes the Doctors.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of California commenced yesterday in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol.

There was an unusually large attendance for the opening day, representatives being present from all parts of the State.

The doctors were on hand at 9 A. M., and two hours were consumed in receiving annual dues and in the registration of members by the Secretary, Dr. William Watt Kerr.

The regular session was called to order at 11 o'clock by the President, Dr. W. R. Cluness, of this city.

Dr. G. L. Simmons, of Sacramento, was introduced to the society by the President, and on behalf of the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement that gentleman welcomed the visiting M. D.'s.

DR. SIMMONS' REMARKS.

"I have been requested," said Dr. Simmons, "as one of the original members of the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement, through whose invitation you have met here to-day, to extend to you their cordial greetings upon this, the twenty-first anniversary meeting of the State society. On their behalf I bid you welcome to Sacramento. We feel honored by your presence, and look with pride upon this gathering, representing as it does the profession of medicine in California; all assembled for the same great object—the accomplishment of the same great ends. Although our State society has reached the age of manhood, it seems to me but yesterday since I saw its organization perfected and its labors in the cause of medical science and philanthropy first entered upon. At that period the work devolved upon a few earnest men, and it may not be inappropriate, and I may be pardoned for referring on this occasion to the fact, that to a member of our local society more than to any other one man is due its re-organization. This Sacramentan was also largely instrumental in forming the first State Medical Society in this city in 1856. He spent years of his life not only in keeping alive the sacred fire of pure medical science, but in maintaining meteorological and sanitary records of the greatest value to California, all without pecuniary reward, and at a time in the history of our State when the rush for wealth was the absorbing passion, and when "time was truly money." It should be said for him that these pioneer records, so long and so faithfully kept, first advertised to the world the fact that we have in our State those inestimable climatic conditions which are necessary for the best development and comfort of mankind. As the first President of the State society, and the subsequent head of our national organization, the name of our departed Logan has been duly honored; but his best monument may be seen in connection with the

EARLIER SANITARY RECORDS

Of the State and the powerful influence he always exerted in favor of the local, State and national organizations of medical men. Through this influence, with that of his coadjutors, our local society was organized and has been in successful operation for a longer period than the State association. It has upon its roll a larger per cent. of the practicing physicians of this city than is known to be the case in any other place of equal or greater population in the United States. All its members believe in the advantages of medical associations and discussions, not only for themselves, but for the good of their patients. They believe that the science of medicine of to-day is not that of yesterday, and that we should be constantly advancing in medical knowledge. In closing, allow me to hope that the spirit and professional zeal and pride which always animated our first President may always pervade the ranks of the State society, and that at this session old friendships may be strengthened and new ones formed; that local prejudices may be overcome and pleasant memories encouraged, and that all may work together for the welfare and highest elevation of our beloved profession."

MAYOR COMSTOCK'S WELCOME.

On behalf of the city of Sacramento Mayor Comstock also welcomed the visitors. "It is with much pride," he said, "that I appear before your large and intelligent body to tender in behalf of Sacramento our hearty welcome, offer you our hospitality and extend the freedom of our city. The calling or profession you have adopted is the most honored of all. You promptly respond to the call of duty, and faithfully minister to the wants of the sick and suffering. Let me urge that while you are here you make our city your city, our homes your homes. I hope the impressions you will receive of us will be so favorable that you will often visit us, and that we will show you that our people and city appreciate its visitors."

Dr. Parkinson, of the Committee on Arrangements, addressed the members briefly upon the work done by the committee and the programme arranged.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

The feature of the opening day of the session was by all means the annual address of President W. R. Cluness. It was an able effort, and was frequently interrupted by enthusiastic applause.

After a few preliminary remarks, the President entered boldly upon the subject of the obligations and derelictions of medical practitioners to professional character. "Is the practice of medicine a profession or a trade?" he asked. "To this I assume that all regular physicians will give the same answer, though they may not agree upon definition of the terms. Here, then, is the important point at issue, and a few words are appropriate in its elucidation. What is the distinction? The code of ethics of the American Medical Association and the Hippocratic oath throw some light upon the subject. The golden rule is more conspicuous in a profession than in a trade; but let us look further.

"Before the decadence of the French nobility, the dictum *noblesse oblige* was a pledge to honorable conduct. We have no such motto, but most of us feel an inward prompting to habitual acts of beneficence. The universal brotherhood of mankind finds more recognition amongst us than with any other calling, for our services are rendered to all classes and conditions of men. From time immemorial the poor in their sickness have asked relief at our hands, and their calls have been heard; the highest of the land give us their confidence, and it is not betrayed; victims of their own misconduct come to us in their troubles and we are often sorely tried in deciding upon the right course between conflicting claims. At all events confidence must not be violated, and the service required must be rendered, provided it involves no infraction of law and public interests. These conditions rise

ABOVE PERSONAL COMFORT,

And money often makes no figure in the transaction. Surely these are not trade dealings. Since we hold, then, that medicine is not a trade but a profession, it follows that physicians must refrain from the artifices usually resorted to in commercial pursuits to secure and to increase business; that they must be known by their works and not by their words; that they must not cheapen their services in order to compete with others, however much they may abate fees as a concession to poverty and distress; above all, they must not resort to deception and fraud to increase their gains. It has not been my purpose to dwell upon this part of the subject, but rather to leave it to your enlightened sense to supply all particulars after a few general remarks.

"As to the derelictions, it was my original intention to deal only with two, which are believed to be rather common in our large towns and cities. In order to investigate them thoroughly, and speak with some degree of certainty, I have prepared and sent out nearly one thousand circulars of inquiry. Of these, nearly 50 per cent. have been returned, and the accompanying tables, together with the list of places where commissions on physicians, prescriptions and society practice are reported not to prevail, have been compiled from a careful analysis of the replies. In the circular these practices are styled "represensible and avoidable business dealings," and I have been gratified to find an almost universal concurrence in their condemnation, a general wish that this effort might conduce to their abatement, and a frequent request for advice upon a plan to break up the abuse of "society practice." But I have found it incumbent upon me to enlarge the scope of this exposition, as a large number of correspondents have called attention to other derelictions, and I shall here quote some of the statements made in connection with the various practices in question.

PERCENTAGES ON PRESCRIPTIONS.

"The practice of paying a commission to physicians by apothecaries is, of course, rather presumptive than capable of actual proof, and this is plainly shown by the table; but there can be no reasonable doubt that it is even more prevalent than the returns indicate. A San Francisco physician remarks: 'I have been repeatedly approached by them (apothecaries), and commissions ranging from 30 to 75 cent. have been offered; indeed, many druggists openly maintain that they can afford, and in fact, do give physicians all the receipts of the first prescriptions, contenting themselves with what they call 'the repeats.' In order not to have patients go to another drug store, one druggist has envelopes which are given to the physician, who seals the prescription in the envelope; another apothecary has prescriptions telephoned to him directly from the doctor's office, and pays for the rental of the telephone. I had one patient tell me that his drug bill was larger than his physician's bill (of course, while under another physician's care). A correspondent at Chicago, and another at Elgin, Ill., alludes to a practice of writing prescriptions in cipher, so that they can be understood and filled only at a particular store. The plain inference is that the prescriber and the druggist are leagued to fleece the unfortunate patient. This is no novelty, and is probably known wherever 'percentage' prescribing is done. A correspondent at Racine, Wis., writes: 'It is a systematic way of robbing the public, and any society of medical men ought to denounce it, and refuse to affiliate with members who persist in the practice. I hope you will arouse a public feeling which will spread from Maine to California, and finally break up this robbery of the sick and unfortunate. It is probable that the abominable system is as prevalent in San Francisco as in any city in the whole world, and it is an 'open secret.' There are now two druggists who announce their revolt from the system by conspicuous placards, one of which reads: 'People's Drug Store; No Commission Paid to Physicians on Prescriptions;' and another bears the legend: 'No Percentage Drug Store.' But this is not the sole wrong done the confiding patient. The 'percentage doctor' is irresistibly impelled to order more medicine than his

PATIENT OUGHT TO SWALLOW,

So as to increase his gains. Some are known to prescribe gratuitously with great, apparent, liberality; but their benevolence is rewarded by the percentage on the bulky and baneful excess of drugs which the simple patient had to pay extortionate prices for. I say extortionate, for the druggist is sure to recover the doctor's commission by adding to it a fair price for the medicine, either then or on future occasions.

"I am informed that percentages are given to physicians in all large towns of England, varying from 35 to 50 per cent., though it is not a general custom; also that the same is done by some druggists in Edinburgh. Advices relative to Berne, Switzerland, and Bucharest, Roumania, mention this dealing as 'suspected.' The moral turpitude of this business, I do not hesitate to say, attaches more to the physician than to the apothecary, for the latter is half, often more than half, a tradesman; and if the strictures of Herbert Spencer, in his essay on the 'Morals of Trade,' fit a particular druggist, we little wonder. But the public have a right to expect better conduct of the educated members of a liberal profession. The druggists of San Francisco have taken the lead in setting two laudable examples of reform; and it is now the turn of the physicians to act. I shall not undertake to advise them how to proceed, but something ought to be done, both in the metropolis and in other towns in California, to abate a practice which is so common as to cast a cloud over the whole body of medical practitioners. What family now knows surely whether its medical adviser is or is not concerned in this traffic? What honorable physician would not be glad to stand clear of the color of suspicion?

SOCIETY PRACTICE.

"This system, to my knowledge, has existed in England for more than thirty years, flourishing under the appellation of 'Friendly Associations,' 'Sick Clubs,' 'Providence Dispensaries,' etc.; and America has probably borrowed it from the mother country. The subject has been discussed in English medical journals for many years, and has been justly regarded as a crying abuse. In the United States it dates back twenty-five years, and is now rapidly growing in cities and large towns, and is gradually invading new territory. The following, from a practitioner in California, describes the system as existing in England: 'Having myself held society appointments and been physician to a Provident Dispensary, from which I used to derive half my income in England, I can speak *ex cathedra*. I used to make $3,000 a year from such appointments. The system is simply accursed all round; the doctor being worked to death and the patient being treated for symptoms only, as his physician hasn't time to make a diagnosis. The Provident Dispensary in England is intended to meet a great want; but, like other good things, it is much abused. Nobody earning more than 25 shillings a week is supposed to belong to it. There is always a rule to this effect; and, in fact, in several places, *e. g.* in Pimlico, one of the districts of London, the Provident Dispensary had a sliding scale of fees to suit incomes of 25 to 50 shillings a week. The Provident Dispensary is really intended to relieve such people; but the public seem to have no conscience when doctor's fees are concerned, and quite well-to-do people join such institutions in every place. Then, on the other hand, if the physician of such an institution is popular and keeps clever assistants, he can starve his brother practitioners. The Provident Dispensary has had my life blood, and I fled here to escape it. The workingman of California is much too well off to descend to such meanness, I trust, as medical attendance at society rates.'

PAID ANNUALLY.

"A correspondent, residing in London, writes that the 'dispensary' practitioner is often paid a fixed annual salary, ranging from £150 to £200, together with house, coal and gas, and without special reference to numbers entitled to his services. In London one-tenth or one-twelfth of the general practice is of this sort; in other English towns one-third. The number of practitioners engaged in this business is comparatively small, most of them being Scotchmen. In its early history there was an attempt on the part of medical men to oppose the business and make it disreputable; but this has died out, and the system is rapidly gaining ground. It is especially flourishing in the manufacturing districts of England and Scotland. With reference to other foreign countries, I learn the following: At Leipsic and most other German cities, large numbers of working people are organized into the *Krankenkasse*, or 'Sick Fund,' and have the choice of relief at hospital or of attendance and medicine at home, together with an allowance of $1 75 a week for maintenance. The physician receives 7½ cents for a visit to such patients, or 5 cents for office consultation. The poorest class are attended gratuitously by government physicians. In Switzerland there are no such voluntary associations, but the government provides gratuitous medical relief to those who need it. In Holland young physicians take family practice among the poorer classes for 10 to 20 cents a week, according to size of family, medicines included, and collect weekly. In Roumania 'society practice' is confined to the Jewish population. The contributions vary from two to five francs per capita annually.

WHERE MOST PREVALENT.

"At New Orleans the 'society' system arose about twenty-five years ago, and probably is more prevalent there than elsewhere in this country. One of my Louisiana correspondents informs me that he has retired from that city to the country solely to escape 'the daily contact with the things I loathe;' *i. e.*, society practice. There the societies are numbered by hundreds; and one practitioner may have the medical business of twenty or more. They take all they can get; and I am informed that one of the leading physicians there avowed, in his earlier experience, that he took all he could in order to keep them out of the hands of others—in other words, to starve out his rivals. The most debasing feature of this business is the degredation of professional character involved in the annual canvass for these positions; for in general they go to the lowest bidder, and the canvass is quite as eager as in political office-seeking.

"The over-work and under-pay of this system, as hardships to the medical man, have been sufficiently exhibited; and also the superficial character of the service which must needs be rendered. But these are not the only evils. The physician becomes the bondsman and common drudge of the society, whose pitiful wages command his attendance for the most trivial ailments. The hired servant must go or lose his place at the next election, and must bear with becoming humility the fault-finding of his ungrateful patients. On the other hand, it virtually denies to members the choice of medical attendant. The descendants of the early settlers of New England, who fled from the oppression of an established church, now, with strange inconsistency, voluntarily assume the yoke of an established medical relief. It is the proud boast of the model republic, that every one here can choose his own religion and physic his soul after his own fashion; but the 'society' system takes charge of his body, and puts it down to the lowest bidder to be physicked. There is no reasonable doubt that most of these 'societies' are organized for the chief, if not the whole object of cheapening medical services; and many well-to-do people are not ashamed to be found in their ranks.

BASE PRACTICES.

"I am informed that in one of our prosperous California cities persons who enjoy an income of more than $1,000 per month are base enough to take such society benefits, thus pauperizing themselves and impoverishing their doctor. They are styled 'benevolent associations,' but the benevolence is extracted from the medical profession by superior *finesse*. Wage-workers in all the handicrafts successfully organize for the common good—especially to prevent reduction of their earnings; but hitherto physicians have made a conspicuous failure in their attempts to combine for mutual protection. At New Orleans want of success was attributable to attempting too much in the beginning, and to the refusal of a very few to co-operate. These few made an abundant harvest of the 'societies' abandoned in the enthusiasm of reform. At San Francisco there has been no rebellion among 'society' doctors. At New York there has recently been organized the 'Medical Practitioners' Association of New York City,' whose objects are: (1) To abolish, at such time as the association may decide, in accordance with the laws hereafter enacted, medical attendance to members, or their families, or both; of clubs, including lodges and societies of any kind, paying the medical attendant a stipulated fee per member, or stipulated amount per annum by contract. (2) To elevate the professional standing of its members. (3.) To eradicate charlatanism. This organization has 75 members out of a total of about 3,000 practitioners. Obviously it would now be premature to predict its future, but the inherent incapacity of physicians to organize in large numbers for a simple business purpose makes the outlook highly unpromising.

"To be plain and candid, I hope for relief only in a natural reaction among the class of people who compose these societies. The inevitable result will be gradual, if not rapid, deterioration in the quality of service rendered by 'society' doctors, until in time its value will approximate to its cost. Then people will begin to wake up to the discovery that 'cheap and nasty' service is poor economy in the face of disease and death. Inasmuch as the practice is evidently spreading, like a contagious disease, it seems likely that all our cities and towns must suffer an attack of greater or less severity; and it is to be hoped that one experience may suffice for at least an average generation. Most likely the malady next time will take new shape under a different name.

CONTRACT DOCTORS.

"In a somewhat less objectionable form the contract system is in vogue among mining and manufacturing companies in many places. Thus at Evansville, Ind., mining companies employ physicians at an annual salary for the employes. At Kokomo, Ind., the Diamond Plate Glass Company employs a contract physician. Married men contribute a dollar a month, and single men fifty cents. At Kansas City, Mo., several large manufacturing companies pay about two-thirds regular fees; others unknown salaries. At Elmira, N. Y., mill and mining firms supply medical service to their employes at reduced rates, they being charged with the cost. At Cleveland, O., and Minneapolis, Minn., corporations employ con-

CONTINUED ON SIXTH PAGE.

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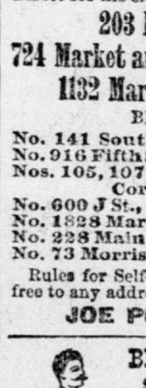

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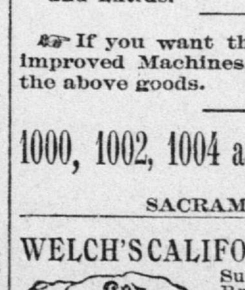

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Trotting Stallions.

WILKESDALE.

STANDARD NO. 4,541.—WILKESDALE is a dark bay, 16 hands high, bred at Highlawn Farm, Mass. He very closely resembles his sire, Alcantara, 2:23, who has the honor of having added more trotters to the 2:30 list (21) last year than any other sire in the world.

Pedigree—Wilkesdale's sire is Alcantara, 2:23 (sire of 33 in the 2:30 list at 14 years, more than any sire of his age), by George Wilkes, 2:22 (sire of Guy Wilkes, 2:15¼, and 71 others in the 2:30 list). Alcantara's dam is Alma Mater (dam of 5 in 2:30 list), by Mambrino Patchen (sire of the dams of Guy Wilkes, 2:15¼, Baron Wilkes, 2:18, and 39 others in 2:30 list). Wilkesdale's dam is Thorndale Maid, 2:30 (dam of Miss Alice, 2:19¾, and Thornton, 2:26¼), by Thorndale, 2:22¼, he by Alexander's Abdallah, out of Old Dolly (dam of Director, 2:17, Onward, 2:25¼, Czarina, 2:21, and Thorndale, 2:22¼), second dam, Bridesmaid, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian.

Terms—$100 for the season, with usual return privilege.

DON MARVIN.

Five-year-old record, 2:28. Standard by breeding and performance. This fast young stallion was bred by Hon. Leland Stanford, Palo Alto, Cal. He was sired by Fallis, 2:23 (the sire of Wanda, 2:19¼, Don Marvin, 2:28, Falrose, 3-year-old trial, 2:29½, and Wilmington, 2:33), by the great Electioneer (the sire of Sunol, 3 years, 2:10½, and 62 others in the 2:30 list). Don Marvin's dam is Cora, by Don Victor, son of Belmont, second dam Clarabel (dam of Cliften Bell, 2:24¼, and grand dam of Rexford, 3 years, 2:24, and Electrician, 2:24½), by Abdallah Star; third dam, Fairy, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian; fourth dam, Emma Mills, by Seely's American Star. Don Marvin is a handsome seal brown, 16 hands high, and weighs over 1,200 pounds. He is a horse of great natural speed. His present record was made with scarcely any preparation, after making a large season in the stud, and is no measure of his speed. The price of his service fee is $40, which is lower than any stallion in the State with same record and breeding.

KAFFIR.

Standard No. 15,045.—Kaffir is a rich bay, foaled 1887; bred by L. J. Rose, Esq., Los Angeles, Cal.; 15¾ hands high; sired by Alcazar, 2:20½, he by Sultan, 2:24 (sire of Stamboul, 2:11), out of Minnehaha (dam of 5 horses in the 2:30 list). Kaffir's dam is Flower Girl, by Authurton (sire of Arab, 2:15, and the dams of Hazel Wilkes, 2:20, Freedom, 2:29¾—fastest yearling in the world—and 5 others in 2:30 list); second dam, Flora, 2:33, by General McClellan (sire of 3 in 2:30 list); third dam, Flora Langford, by Langford (sire of the dams of Lillian Wilkes, 3 years, 2:17¾, and 3 others in 2:30 list). Mr. Rose says Kaffir was one of the fastest yearling trotters he ever bred, trotting quarters in 37½ seconds in his yearling form. He will be allowed to serve a limited number of mares at $40 the season, after which he will be prepared for the fall campaign.

The public is invited to call and see these fine individuals, representing the THREE GREAT TROTTING FAMILIES — WILKES, ELECTIONEER and SULTAN.

Good pasture close by the city at $4 per month. For further particulars and complete circulars, call or address
F. P. LOWELL,
mr28-tf 1520 F street, Sacramento, Cal.

ROSS S.

STANDARD; RECORD, 2:25, (IN NUMbers will be given in Wallace's Trotting Register No. 10).

ROSS S., 2:25, by Nutwood, 2:18¾, first dam by State of Maine, 2:40, by Simpson's Messenger by Winthrop Messenger, son of imp. Messenger, second dam by McCracken's Black Hawk.

ROSS S. has the fastest record of any Nutwood stallion on the coast, excepting Dawn, 2:18¾, and as a sire will prove to be the equal of any son of Nutwood. His first colts, now 3-year-olds, are very promising, and three of them will drop in the 2:30 list this year, if nothing happens them, as two can now show a 2:30 gait, and the third can trot a mile in 2:50. ROSS S. and his colts can be seen at stables of the undersigned, where all can see that he is a sire of size, color, style and speed.

DESCRIPTION—ROSS S. is a rosewood bay, 16 hands high, weighs 1,150 pounds, very stylish, good mane and tail, legs and feet, plenty of bone and muscle, and a splendid long neck.

TERMS—ROSS S. will stand at $75 for the season.

PAY CAR

Is my name, my sire is Ross S., record 2:25, by Nutwood, record 2:18¾; my dam is Etelka, by Sultan, record 2:24, sire of Stamboul, record 2:11; my great dam is Katie Did, the dam of Inez, record 2:30. I am 3 years old, 15¾ hands high, splendid blood bay in color, heavy black mane and tail, the best of legs and feet, long neck, good head, well set on, can trot a 2:40 gait in an easy way. I am the only stallion in the State standing for public service that combines the blood of the two great sires, Nutwood and Sultan. I will be allowed to serve fifteen approved mares for $50 the season, at Worth Ober's Training Stables, Sacramento Race Track. Good mares sent to breed to me will have the best of careful handling and kept in any way wished. Accidents or escapes at owner's risk. Address all communications to
WORTH OBER, Owner,
mr21-3m 618 Twenty-third st., Sacramento.

TROTTING STALLION—A Great Sire Strangely Overlooked.

STERLING,

NO. 6,223, IS A HORSE OF MOST FASHionable breeding, his sire being by the sire of the great Nutwood, and his sire's dam, like that of Nutwood's dam, being by Pilot Jr. Although it has been the reproach of my friends that my partiality for Prompter prevented me from giving Sterling "a chance," not giving him my best mares nor working his colts, and he had but few outside mares, in spite of which, at 11 years old, he had four 2:30 performers and a son that sired a filly that entered the 2:30 list at 3 years old and showed a full mile in her work in 2:19¼—a showing that not ten horses in the world has equaled. His dam is the dam of a 4-year-old with a record of 2:26, and grand dam of a 4-year-old with a record of 2:20, and of a mare that has produced a 2:30 trotter and the fastest 2-year-old ever bred in Butte County, and grand dam of a horse that has sired a 2:30 performer. She has not only won her way to the "table of great brood mares," but has demonstrated that she possesses in an eminent degree those invaluable qualities in the dam of a stock horse, the potency to "breed on" and the quality of "early development." Although foaled in Sacramento, what imported horse excels him? W. H. HICKS.

NUTWOOD JR.,

THE FAMOUS STALLION WILL STAND the season at AGRICULTURAL PARK. Price, $30 for season.
mr21-3m R. H. NASON, Proprietor.

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