

he has confidence, he gives it a trial. The modern advance in knowledge is largely due to this adaptability of the physician to modern ideas and invention.

For every physician who has a large practice which is not chiefly confined to office treatment, some means of rapid locomotion is an absolute necessity. In a city of any extent, where his patients are somewhat scattered, the street cars are not to be depended on. Something that is easily gotten ready for use, that is quick and not too expensive is what is wanted; and to fill these requirements an automobile is the thing. While its initial cost may seem large, it is really not much more expensive than a good horse and buggy. It is vastly more convenient than these, is more easily gotten ready for use and is much more speedy. Also, it "stands without hitching." There is no need for a man to accompany the physician, to drive the horse or to hold him while the physician is making his calls; neither is there any disagreeable odor from the automobile, to cling to the physician. An automobile does not require the care that is necessary for the horse, either in the barn or in general, and is always ready to be used for business or for pleasure. An owner who understands his machine may well take entire care of it.

For the doctor who can afford one, and who has some means of charging the storage batteries, an electric automobile is possibly the best. While they are not so speedy as some others, they can discount a horse in the amount of ground they can cover in a day, and they are little trouble to take care of. They are built in designs as handsome as are any in the carriage line and are well adapted for a physician's use. The steam machines have their strong adherents as well, though comparatively few physicians in Detroit are running this type of machine.

For the doctor who does not care to

#### **AUTOMOBILES FOR PHYSICIANS.**

Every new idea that is of value to him in his profession is readily picked up and made use of by the modern physician. He wants the latest and most improved devices in the line of surgical devices. If a new treatment comes up which has been tried with success by men in whom

pay the price of an electric machine, the gasoline engine offers itself. This type is also well adapted for use over country roads, and the means for securing fuel are at every hand, all through the country. It is merely a matter of a few minutes to prepare the engine for use, supplying it with gasoline and water and oiling the necessary parts. There is no delay in fitting the machine for a run, and the speed of a gasoline motor is limited, practically, by the police and the chauffeur's own willingness to take risks. With the machine in proper condition, the turn of a handle starts it at once and under proper management it will keep going as long as the supply of fuel keeps up.

It may be urged by the novice that the matter of the care of an automobile and the keeping of it in repair is one of no small moment. This is undoubtedly true to a certain extent. Some knowledge of mechanics is a desideratum, but this can readily be gained in a short time by a man possessed of keen intelligence. A man would not ordinarily attempt to drive a horse of which he knew nothing, unless he had some general knowledge of horses; neither should a man attempt to drive an automobile without some knowledge of the general subject of automobiling. Once knowledge is gained, the owner of a machine finds himself prepared to surmount any difficulty short of a serious accident. When this happens, there is always the repair shop, where repairs can be quickly made. Every owner of a horse and buggy has to make some outlay for shoes and repairs throughout the year; the care of an automobile would cost him a sum no larger than the one he spends annually to keep his turnout in condition. He avoids board bills for the horse and the hire of a man to look after the animal.

The automobile is tireless, as long as its fuel supply is kept up. A busy practitioner has to keep two horses in order

to avoid wearing one out too fast, but the automobile does not have to be considered in this regard. The city pavements that are so hard on a horse's hoofs are the roads upon which a machine does its best work and the driver of an automobile need not feel that some horse is being kept too hard at work. With an automobile, the physician saves time on his rounds, gets through more quickly and has just that much more time left for recreation and pleasure. After a day's work, the automobile is just as ready to serve as a means for recreation as it was to act as an aid in business. Riding in a swift automobile is one of the most delightful and exhilarating pleasures possible, and it is always at the command of the owner of a machine in good condition. The doctor who is tired from a day's work may seek and find relief in a pleasure ride through the city and its suburbs.

If more physicians owned automobiles, it would have a good effect on the minds of the public in general. Many people are bitterly opposed to the use of the machines because accidents are still numerous. The use of this means of locomotion by careful men would be a good thing in this regard. In competent hands an auto is no more dangerous than a horse. Fast driving is an offence in the eyes of the law—and very properly so. So is running an automobile at a speed faster than the law allows. Under ordinary conditions the machine is controlled and stopped quite as readily and as quickly as a horse.