

AUTOMOBILE, THE DOCTOR'S FRIEND

BY DR. GODFREY, OF MIMICO.

FROM a rather dubious owner of an automobile, I have become enthusiastic, and now wonder why any physician who has work on the road should be without one.

Outside of the original price, the machine has cost me three cents per mile. This includes repairs, renewal of the batteries, gasoline, dope, oil, carbide, etc., in short, everything to make it go, and keep it going.

To a medical man it makes the grind of general practice a pleasure. After a forty or fifty mile drive during the day you are able to have a quiet dinner and a good cigar feeling as other men, and not as a slave. If you have a night call; well, all you have to do is to walk out to the stable, turn on your lights (use an acetylene Pilot), and with half a turn of the crank you have something that will take you there at twenty miles an hour, and you are back in half the time it requires with a horse or street car.

The fortunate part of a motor for a medical man in the country is that his horses can be turned out to pasture, when to be on the roads would be very hard on them; for what medical man likes to see his horses on a hard dusty road with a July sun hitting them square on the head, and with the certain knowledge that when he reaches his destination they will have to fight the flies. So it is, especially "In the good old summer time," the motor has every other method of locomotion beaten a mile in more ways than one.

I know little about the merits or demerits of any other machine than my own, a Model "C" Ford, but know enough about it to leave it alone except to see that there is plenty of oil, gasoline, electricity and water in the proper places, and though I had practically no instructions on either the mechanism or operation of my car, I have never failed to drive home, nor in fact had a more serious problem to tackle than a dirty spark plug, a matter of but a few minutes work to change.

It may be that I am too enthusiastic, and that my troubles will come in a bunch. Well, let them! All I can say is that after months of service I am more than satisfied, and believe no doctor should be without a good reliable motor.

From the number of machines being sold this season and under process of construction, it is apparent that though the automobile will never supersede "Man's noblest friend," the horse, yet for general utility and added speed and convenience, its use has become an imperative necessity.

The coming International Automobile Show to be held in Toronto, March 31st to April 7th, will enable those interested in

automobiles to compare the latest makes and prices, as I believe nearly half a million dollars' worth of machines will be exhibited by manufacturers of the United States, England, France and Canada.