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NOTES AND COMMENTS

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EX PEDE HERCULEM! THREE DOCTORS' CARDS - GENUINE. Such was the inscription which I saw on an envelope the other day in a doctor's office. The cards were - (1) DR. A. S. BROWN, size 3 by 1-1/2 inches; (2) DR. S. S. SMITH, 800 Commonwealth Ave., New York, size 4 by 2; (3) DR. SETH JONES, 50 Eagle street, Rochester, size about 5 by 3, with gilt and indented edges. At the top, several specialties indicated; below, office hours and telephone number.

Professional custom in cards, as in door-plates, varies in different regions. The English physician has usually his name alone, sometimes the address of house or club. The cards of continental and American physicians are usually larger, more boldly printed, and on the former we very commonly see the titles or the official positions. Such a card as No. 3 stamps the man as on the borderland, or already in the wastes, of quackery. I allude to the subject because last year I saw the card of a recent graduate which was nearly as large and LOUD. I was interested enough in his welfare to refer to it, and he assured me that he had erred in ignorance. I believe this is often the case, and it is just in these, apparently trivial, details of professional etiquette that we allow our graduates to go out without any instruction. The final students in every college should have the benefit of a short course of lectures on medical ethics and on the business and legal relations of the doctor. The plan was adopted last year at the University of Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM OSLER.