

THE AUTOMOBILE AND THE DOCTOR.

There is no need to tell physicians much about the usefulness of automobiles, nor to demonstrate in how many ways the machine eclipses the horse in general convenience and economy of time—though possibly not in economy of purse. The latter consideration is a problem that each individual must work out for himself. At the present time the weighty question is rather one that concerns the judicious selection of the machine that is going to best satisfy the various requirements—and these include such points as strength, durability, speed, appearance, seating capacity, economy, price, etc.

In order to give physicians a good opportunity to examine into the various features of automobiles, the Committee on Exhibits of the Illinois State Medical Society has decided upon a departure from the usual character of medical exhibits at state medical meetings. Dr. Chas. S. Winn, chairman of the committee, writes us as follows:

“The committee have arranged for the exhibition and demonstration of automobiles of the runabout type specially fitted and adapted to the physicians’ use, ranging in horse power from 10 to 30, and in cylinder from one to four. The physician is rapidly adopting the motor car as his means of conveyance. Those who purchased cars early in their development are still automobile enthusiasts. Although the cars have not proved satisfactory in every way, it is seldom you hear of a physician who has gone back to the use of the horse. The physician, as a rule, is not a good mechanic and is apt to have a little more than his share of trouble, but he is an apt student and soon learns the mechanism of his car and becomes an automobile enthusiast. Many are disposing of their old cars and purchasing new ones, and in making these second selections, they are not so easily convinced of the merits of the car, but they must be shown. Cars possessing sufficient horse power and sufficient weight are demanded. Durability is an important feature. Ease and comfort of riding are of great importance, and thus you see all these qualifications are not found in one car. The manufacturers demonstrating cars at this exhibition will have in mind the needs of the physician, and will come prepared to set forth the merits of their car and show why it is specially adapted to the physicians’ use. The questions of number of cylinders is not

fully settled. An automobile run is being arranged for from Chicago to Rockford, and we hope to see in this run from 20 to 30 cars. Thus, physicians desiring to purchase automobiles, will have an exceptional opportunity to make selections of car at this time."

It is probable that the information gleaned by the Illinois physicians will be given wide publicity in the Western states; thus the motoring doctors of Wisconsin will receive much profit from the exhibit too.

We acknowledge a debt to the Illinois committee for its timely and helpful proposition, and are glad to flatter by imitation. We would suggest that a similar exhibit be arranged for the joint benefit of Wisconsin and Minnesota physicians at this year's meeting. If this is impossible, then let us arrange for a "runabout" show at the 1908 meeting which will undoubtedly be held in Milwaukee.

Automobile exhibits will, we believe, prove in the future to be featured among the leading attractions of large medical gatherings.