

THE AUTOMOBILE FOR PHYSICIANS.

That the automobile has come to stay there can be no doubt in the minds of those who have given the matter any thought, although whether the final verdict will be in favor of the car propelled by gasoline, steam, electricity or some other power we would not dare to prophecy. There is no doubt that many improvements in the present style of car will be made, probably in the near future, but there are today several types of two and four passenger cars which are suitable for physicians' use and which will enable a physician either in the city or the country to do his work not only much more economically, but much more pleasantly than with horses.

The ideal physicians' car is the runabout of from 7 to 20 horse power, and of this type there are several styles to be purchased, all of which give good satisfaction. There is no doubt in our minds that at present the gasoline car is for all around use superior to the steam or the electric car although each of the latter has its advantages under special conditions. The cost of maintaining a gasoline car of from 7 to 20 horse power will vary, of course, with the amount of use and also with the kind of care and attention given the car by its owner. The physician in the country must make himself familiar with the mechanism of his car and be prepared to make the ordinary adjustments and slight repairs needed to keep the machinery in good order. This is not difficult and can be done by any intelligent man after a little study. The stationary gasoline engine is now used for so many purposes that there is some one in nearly every community who is familiar enough with its mechanism to understand its disorders and to correct most of them. The expense of maintaining the ordinary car of the type above mentioned, barring accidents, should not exceed \$25 a month and may be brought much below this figure by the man who is a good mechanic and a careful driver.

The pleasure of spinning along country roads at from 12 to 15 miles an hour, which is fast enough, with the power to double this speed in an emergency, is something that can hardly be con-

ceived until it has been experienced, to say nothing of the convenience of being able to use the car at all times, day or night, without **stopping** to rest or to feed it. The physician who makes a careful and wise selection before purchasing and who masters the detail and mechanism of his car after he has purchased it, will not, in our opinion, return to horses and will attend to an arduous country practice with a pleasure that he has never known before. There are many physicians throughout the northwest who are using automobiles and there are undoubtedly many who are contemplating the purchase of a car of some sort but do not know just what they need or what car would be safe to invest in.

We should be very glad if any of our readers who are using cars would write us their experiences, and if any of our readers who are thinking of purchasing will write us we will gladly answer such questions and give such advice as we can.