The Lighter Side of Medicine

A pediatrician, an internist, and a surgeon go duck hunting. All of them are sitting behind a duck blind. They draw straws to see who gets to shoot first. The pediatrician wins. As they sit there, a large flock flies overhead.

The pediatrician says, "Well, these animals have webbed feet and long necks, they quack, and they float on water. They must be ducks." Bang! He shoots and down comes a duck.

Next up is the internist. Soon another flock flies over. The internist says, "Well, I can rule out the fact they are hippos. They can't be giraffes. They certainly aren't dinosaurs. They're not reptiles..." On and on he goes. By the time the internist considers what the flock really is, they've flown out of sight and he doesn't get off a shot.

Next up is the surgeon. A flock flies over. Bang! He shoots without hesitation and asks, "What the hell was that?"

Who knows what practicing medicine will be like in the 21st century? The only thing I'm sure of is that I'll still wear gloves when I need to examine certain people's axillae.

(Contributed by John Vogt, MD, Permanente Medical Association of Texas)

If laughter is the best medicine, shouldn't "Tickle Me Elmo" only be dispensed by prescription?

(Contributed by Jonathan Hall, MD, The Permanente Medical Group, Inc.)

How long do cold sores last? Seven days with treatment, one week without.

(Contributed by Harold Bass, MD, Southern California Permanente Medical Group)