

What are some of those qualifications? A love for his calling. A consciousness of his great responsibilities. A keen perception of human nature. A large share of sympathy for human suffering. And a competent measure of common sense. Of course a thorough knowledge of his profession is taken for granted as an essential element of success. Few medical men are endowed with all these virtues in their full development, but without a competent share of some of them we must fail to impress the public that we are fit to represent a great and noble profession. And yet I know some and have heard of many others who manifest in splendid reality these elements of a good physician.

We cannot all be "McClures" but we can all strive to imitate this noble ideal.

(3.) *Snapshot Diagnosis and Slipshod Prognosis.*—There are hundreds of people living to-day to laugh at their physicians who told them many years ago that they had but a short time to live.

There is nothing so embarrassing to the average physician as the importunities of his patients and their friends regarding the nature and issue of their illness. "What is the matter" and "will he get well" are questions that ring in our ears with ever increasing emphasis till we are almost in despair. Sometimes there is no escape from the assaults that are made on us by interested and disinterested friends, as they take up one after the other all the strategic positions on the premises as we are taking leave of our patients; and if we are fortunate enough to escape the vigilance of this advance guard it is only to be waylaid by some kind neighbor along our line of retreat. These interrogations could often be borne with Christian resignation were they not put with the same sublime indifference as questions regarding the weather or a dog fight.

There are times when it is the undoubted duty of the physician to be plain with his patients and their friends, to warn them of the probable issue when there are interests at stake demanding prompt action. But in the great majority of cases a prudent reserve will best serve the interests of patient and physician.

The candid physician is an admirable character provided his candor is fortified by sound judgment and definite knowledge. And people should know that the specific duty of the physician is to treat his patients and not their friends, although it is often more difficult to do the latter than the former.