

that such things should be and that medical men should have to work with the sweat of their brows without thanks and without pay as in this particular case and others like it to protect the general health of the public. It is almost unthinkable, and yet it is a fact. It is a subject worth pondering over once more, and haply in time the medical profession may be successful in devising some means of escaping from this ignominious position.

Original Communications.

PROSTITUTION IN THE PROFESSION.*

BY DR. JAMES SAMSON.

This little paper, I have to assure you, will be wonder fully barren of all that literary decoration which has always added so much to the delightful interest we have experienced in listening to the many papers that have from time to time been presented to the Society. It shall, instead, be simply a few plain, cold-blooded observations in reference to a malignant pustule that has, during the present generation, planted itself on the body of the profession with very much of the same results that always have and always will follow the history of malignancy everywhere.

The medical profession has for a long time enjoyed the dignity of standing in the very forefront of respectability among the educational organizations of the world, and it has, we all believe, I trust, honestly deserved this recognition: first, from the high standard of its attainments; second, from the tremendous interests involved in its pursuits, and, lastly, from the fidelity and honorable energy with which its disciples have, in all modern days, dedicated their best energies to the duties of their chosen avocation. And all of this dignity has been but an accumulation of the individual worth of the members of the profession. That this condition of affairs shall always continue, is a "consummation devoutly to be wished for," both for ourselves and in the interests of those whose very destinies are so largely in our hands.

So literally is this true, that no wiser injunction could be impressed on him who passes through the portals of admission to the profession than to remember that his dignity and self-respect will win him half the power and usefulness he shall ever possess, and that the great public to whom he goes will ever respect him most who most respects himself. And so I believe that he who peddles his profession prostitutes it, and pays for his crime the inevitable price that prostitution has always paid—both in his own personal humiliation and in the degradation that his debauchery brings on the craft to which he belongs.

It was no honorable motive that first inspired the damnable heresy of co-operative medicine, nor has anyone ever claimed that it was even a humane impulse that fathered this ill-begotten innovation. Almost every so-called benevolent organization known among the sons of men in our day had a bastard birth, and under the hypocritical guise of Christian charity, was chartered and founded to fill some man's pockets or the measure of his ambition. And as all men in their average daily conduct seem so prone to value their money more than their lives, the audacious scheme was concocted of offering them the bonus of gratuitous medical attendance as a special inducement among all the others. And so the profession that has always done and always will do, to the very verge of eternity, more for charity's sake than all others, was asked to add a halo of respectability to this scheme of modern philanthropy, to accept all men as paupers, to care for them in sickness and distress at the ordinary rate paid by all other corporations for all other paupers, a rate which, by the way, has always been considerably less than the average horse-breeder would gladly pay a veterinary surgeon for the care of as many average horses. And so doctors in hundreds and thousands, with a strange fascination for that which promises money on the spot, have taken the thirty pieces of silver, and made themselves part and parcel of the scheme. Some enlisted because poverty suggested the crime: some because of the promise of a possible inroad into homes to which they might otherwise for a long time remain strangers, and perhaps never reach, unless artifice was employed as an accession

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