

The relation of the physician to his patient is a sacred one. Do the people fully realize this relation? The family physician is not only the custodian of your physical health and well-being, but also of your family history. He is the father confessor to whom are committed the dearest secrets of your life. To him are known your secret vices and your worthy and unworthy motives. And yet many people dismiss their physician as they do their grocer or their butcher. They treat their physician on the principle "for value received." I pay my doctor as I pay my hired man; and when my ends are served I dismiss him with the same scant courtesy. This principle is vicious as well as false. The correct principle would be, "For services which cannot be computed in dollars and cents, I contribute of my means to help my doctor to live, and knowing as he does my secret life, I shall ever esteem it my privilege not only to show him my gratitude, but to retain his friendship."

What is your life worth? And yet some people treat their physician as if it were not worth very much.

Is there any reason for this condition of things? Do any of us basely betray those private and family secrets that come to us through our relations with our patients? The pertinent, and I had almost said impertinent, questions put to us by anxious enquirers regarding the troubles of their neighbors, sometimes lead the unwary physician into forbidden liberty with the sacred rights of those whose misfortunes compel them to lay bare to him the secrets and the motives of their lives. Let us guard this sacred trust and so merit the confidence and esteem of the public.

I have already adverted to the work of the medical profession in the field of sanitary medicine. Notwithstanding this work and the comparative immunity of our province against preventable disease, there remains yet a great deal to be done along these lines. And it is only through the active and intelligent co-operation of the people that this work can be successfully accomplished. In order to secure their co-operation the public must be educated not only regarding the necessity for sanitary regulations, but also as to the reason for them. I meet people every day who deny the infectiousness of such diseases as diphtheria and typhoid fever. These people have the audacity to advance their opinions against the accumulated experience as well as the scientific knowledge of all ages. Our first duty then is to remove these gross errors and thus prepare the public mind for submission to legal enactments for checking these diseases as well as for active co-operation with the medical profession and the health authorities for putting these regulations into practical operation. Our Provincial Board of Health under the chairmanship of the indefatigable Dr. Reid, is doing valiant service in this department of work, not only in guarding against epidemics, but also in enlisting public and professional sympathy and co-operation. Do they receive