

us suppose he is free to announce that he intends to limit his practice to the eye, ear, throat, or nose. The question, however, follows: Has he a right to limit himself to a combination of any or all of these, and may that combination be extended so as to embrace the treatment of several other parts of the system. It is not difficult to see that by an enlargement of the area of limitation, the same end may be attained as is reached by the former method of directing attention to superior qualifications in treating certain forms of disease. There would seem a certain advantage in some members of the profession confining their attention to diseases of the eye and ear; whether practice in this sphere is incompatible with the work of a general practitioner need not here be discussed; it may be admitted that certain gentlemen have special qualifications for the treatment of these diseases, and that the profession and the public ought to know it. It is hoped, however, that this end will be attained with as little sacrifice as possible of those ideas which seem to conform best with the standard of honour that distinguishes professional men from quacks. If it is necessary that gentlemen so endorsed should occasionally visit other places than those in which they reside, it may be possible to let the profession and the public know of it otherwise than through the methods of K. & K. and others of the same species. This may be done without local notices in the newspapers, or emblazoned tablets that catch the eye in the principal hotels. Indeed, the tendency for professional advertising seems to grow in proportion as it is followed, and we find that by some who limit themselves to special fields, "particular attention" is paid to limited and superficial parts of those fields. The force of the current is apparent. Let us halt at the brink—for once embarked and lulled by self-interest, we may be drifted whither we should not sail. As regards special qualifications, we may be sure that if these are possessed, our fellow-practitioners will not be slow in discussing them; and the general public, for the most part, is able to recognize special ability long before the individual himself begins to suspect it. The truth of this is very apparent, and hence it would appear, as each member is obliged to obtain a general knowledge of the different branches of the profession, he should commence

life as a general practitioner, and if through special fitness or devotion to any particular field he obtains prominence, it is by nature's slow process of evolution that he is differentiated into the limitations of specialism. After such a course there will be a diminished tendency for the mind reflecting constantly on one branch to regard all physiological and pathological processes as revolving around a cardiac, optical, or uterine centre.

The path may be a long one, and the end not reached by a bound, but the way to true success is seldom rapid—it is through labour and struggle. This truth must have been impressed upon the mind of Velpeau, for not long before his death he said to those around him: "We must always labour, my friends." None of us are so great that we may not listen to his voice; none so humble that we may not follow—though, indeed, it be far off—in his footsteps, and be inspired by his dying words.

PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA.

(*Report of a Case in Practice.*)

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Mr. President and Gentlemen,—In reporting the following case of puerperal septicæmia which lately occurred in my practice, I do not expect to throw any new light on a subject of which much has yet to be learned, and of which the descriptions in our text-books are so meagre and contradictory; but I hope to provoke a discussion, which, no doubt, considering the men who are present, will dispel much of the darkness and doubt which still enshrouds this difficult and important subject.

Having had four such cases in my own practice, and having seen one in that of a neighbouring practitioner—all of which resulted from the same cause—I had intended reporting them all as concisely as possible in this paper, but found that when one case was reported the article was long enough, and so resolved to postpone the reports of the others "until a more convenient season."

CASE I.—On the 5th of February last was called in haste to attend Mrs. S., aged 32, the