

MEDICAL ETHICS.*

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This subject has been taken up to such an extent by members of the profession, and their papers published in the medical journals of the past few months, that little can be added to what has already been written; and no doubt some of the contents of this paper will be as familiar to you as your prayer books—should be. Yet I think we may derive some benefit from a discussion of the ethics of our profession. The subject embraces a great deal more than I shall be able to treat or even to touch upon, but I would ask your indulgence for a few minutes with an imperfect sketch of this important part of our education, which in our college training was neglected as a distinct subject: our teaching on medical ethics being confined to a single lecture, at the most two.

Our worthy teachers sought to inculcate us with the true spirit of manliness, and trusted to that to be our rule and guide in all our professional dealings. I believe that recently a movement has been set on foot in the upper provinces to have this important subject taught in our colleges as a part of the curriculum.

As I mentioned the subject has recently attracted attention. Our MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS of June last contains a paper read by Dr. Goodwin, before the N. S. branch of the British Medical Association. Also in the August edition of the same journal, I notice that "Medical Ethics" formed the principal part of the President's address before the New Brunswick Medical Society in July. There is also, in the same copy, an extract from the "British Medical Journal" of a recent issue.

The papers are all well worth reading, and I am sure we will all agree with Dr. Murray when he states that "there is no profession from the members of which greater purity of character, and a higher standard of moral excellence is required than the medical."

To attain such eminence is a duty which every practitioner owes alike to his profession and to his patients. Yet, I regret to state, the present condition of the medical profession, regarding it from an ethi-

*Read before Colchester Medical Society, Sept., 1902.