

I am convinced, however humiliating the confession may be, that much if not most of this lack of appreciation which characterizes the public mind towards us is due to causes emanating from ourselves. What then are some of the vulnerable points in our professional armour that leave us open to attack?

1. NARROW-MINDED JEALOUSY.

Good wholesome criticism of each other among ourselves is a legitimate practice that often results in very much good. But the pernicious habit of indiscriminate belittling of each other in the presence of the lay public is a fruitful source of that merited contempt which we so much deprecate and so much deserve.

We often meet physicians who are always ready and eager to disparage their fellow practitioners, who cannot view with equanimity their attainments or success—men who delight to magnify in others faults that are perhaps more conspicuous in themselves; men who imagine that all wisdom dwells in themselves—who are always attributing false motives for the more generous acts of their more successful rivals, and who seek by detraction and misrepresentation to injure their professional standing. Such men, however clever they may be, can only bring contempt on themselves as well as on the whole profession to which they are not an ornament but a disgrace.

Every medical man and lay man in my hearing can recall instances of the most discreditable tactics resorted to by dishonorable members of our profession for bringing reproach on the fair fame or good name of an honorable rival, forgetting that the reproach which they seek to attach to the name of another recoils on their own heads and discredits the whole profession.

How much more honorable, how much more becoming and elevating to the profession if we should be always as ready to minimize each others imperfections, to condone each others faults and thus help a fellow laborer over the rough places in his professional journey.

2. MISFITS.

Like every other profession or calling in life, ours is not exempt from the misfortune of misfits.

There are men in our ranks who are failures because they lack in some or all of those characteristics that enter into the general make up of a good physician.

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 develop-