

ties of the present day have done much to advance their own departments and science in general, yet it is thought by many that in numerous instances unnecessary divisions have been created, and that the future will rather show concentration of the offices than their multiplication.

We are often accused of being sticklers for etiquette. "Don't be so very particular," people will say when urging a line of conduct to a *confrère* which, in your opinion, verges upon the unprofessional. "Don't be so precise; just leave off a little of that straight-laced etiquette and no harm will be done." Never listen to them. They cannot be made to understand the real and good reasons underlying the excellent rules for our mutual guidance which have long been laid down by our foremost men and our oldest associations. Be quite sure of one thing, that a medical man, and especially a young medical man, always errs on the right side when he inclines towards a severe interpretation of the rules of conduct. Many are the specious arguments and the sophisms which will present themselves to you to help explain the reason why these rules may, in any given case or in general, be relaxed. There is no safety in listening to the voice of the tempter. To keep a clear conscience, you must do right and behave fairly, squarely, and openly to your professional *confrères* from the very start. This, on your part, may sometimes give offence, and perhaps stand in the way of your advancement or your interest. Never mind that. I have seen many a man cause himself infinite trouble and endless warfare with his neighbors by an early false step in this direction; but I never yet saw one who had reason to regret a firm adherence to a strict interpretation. No rules can be made to govern every case: no code of ethics can be complete. Aim at securing a conviction in your own mind that you have always been acting as one gentleman should act towards another. Then you cannot possibly go wrong.

At this season, when each of our colleges is adding its quota of graduates to a profession whose ranks may seem already full, one is apt to hear the commonplace remark, "There are too many doctors"; and to the tyro this is a discouraging sentiment.