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THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL JOURNALISM.

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THE fourth estate in the profession of medicine is of importance equal, if not superior, to any of the other elements whose combination welds it into the most important factor in modern life. On the one hand, original research is at the basis of all knowledge, but of what value is original research if its results be not made known to the public? On the other hand, the intelligent practice of the art of healing is the chief object of the medical man, but how can he practice intelligently if the methods of doing so are not placed at his disposal? In the centre between these extremes lies the medical press, in touch, not only with these main professional factors, but with every other element, small or large, which contributes to professional success—in touch with all, strengthening all, supporting all, binding all into one mighty progressive whole, and lending to all the qualities indispensable to success.

In our own country this department of professional endeavor has attained especial development. Few realize how many physicians are engaged in medical journalism. I admit that while my own estimate of the number was high, it was not until I entered upon the duties of the important office, with which this Association honored me at its last meeting, that I began to gain a definite knowledge of it. And it was entirely without a full appreciation of the magnitude of the task I was assuming that I entered last year upon the work of constructing a catalogue of all the medical