

that she had been ill since last fall having first a hydrothorax which was tapped and followed by empyema.

As the woman was evidently dying I did not interfere with the case simply joining with the others in an expression of opinion that she could not recover. Her attendant pointed out to me, with the air of a man who had done his whole duty, the precautions which he had taken to prevent air getting into the pleural cavity. He had wedged a large rubber tube into the single opening in the chest wall, kept the patient on her back, and the other end of the tube was kept in a vessel of carbolyzed water beside the bed. This, I was informed, secured the purity of pleural cavity. On the 27th, as patient still lived, I was sent for again (al-

though I had previously given my opinion that she could not possibly recover). I found that she had rallied slightly but was not really any better. As she complained of the tube causing pain, I removed it, when there ran out over a quart of most horribly fetid pus, so that many of the friends who had gathered around the bedside had to go out and vomit. Of course the blood poisoning was already too pronounced for her to recover, but I have no doubt that the above invention was a great hindrance to any chance which the poor woman originally had, and strange to say it is only a short time since I saw the same method advocated in a medical journal, not as a result of experience but on theoretical grounds.

EDITORIAL

MEDICAL ETHICS.

"Duty and Honor!"

Those are ambiguous words, of many meanings;
You should interpret them for him."

—*The Death of Wallenstein.*

WE have been interested to observe that the Committee on Credentials of the Ontario Medical Association has had entrusted to it the task of reporting on a number of individual points relating to professional etiquette and, we suppose morals; and it has occurred to us that the above quotation very exactly expresses the whole situation, and as the *you* in this instance stands for the Committee, we commend these words of wisdom to them for their serious consideration.

Doubtless it is true that any well constituted society must have certain well defined laws to regulate it, and we deem it quite right and proper that the medical profession, as a caste, must have its creed and standards of faith to which every member is expected, if not required, to subscribe. We do not propose to anticipate the decisions of the Committee on the very serious questions which they have to consider, and can only hope that the leaven of Phariseeism may be entirely absent from their deliberations, and that while straining at a gnat they do not swallow a camel.

The cardinal principle, we take it, of the only true guide to human conduct is contained in the saying, "Do unto others as ye would that men do

unto you;" and all honest discussion will resolve itself into the problem of how, under circumstances to which these several questions relate, medical men should act or govern themselves. Where Phariseeism might possibly enter into the deliberations of the Committee, would be where it might assume that ethics demands that the element of business must be wholly ignored by a professional man. With a profession overcrowded, and many more entering it every year, it must at once be taken for granted that unless the newly-arrived practitioners have decided to become apostles of Tannerism, they are going to make a vigorous struggle to escape extinction by a process of slow starvation. Bearing directly upon this phase of the problem is one question which we notice is to be discussed, viz., the ethics of a handbill of varying dimensions, stating that Dr. So-and-So has removed to Street A., No. B. We await with pleasure the Committee's *dictum* on this point, and claim the right in the meantime to our own unexpressed opinion.

Another, and to us a more serious, aspect of this question is the practical ethical differences between the actions of the physician as an individual and as one of a number, e.g., the staff of a medical college. Does an immoral action become moral if sanctioned by usage? and can the fact that a certain number of physicians are associated together by a legal charter to grind out young practitioners, make ethically correct their actions in sending broadcast,