

experienced. We come to know personally the recognized leaders in our profession, for ours, like all other callings, has recognized leaders. New and more exalted ideas of the dignity and importance of our profession are insensibly acquired and the members go back to their labours with a determination to live up to the ideal they have formed and to become more and more worthy of the noble profession they have chosen.

Man has been described as a social being. Social recreation is to him a necessity. To the busy practitioner of medicine the opportunities for social recreation are very limited. He is liable at all hours to be called upon by some suffering member of his clientele. Many a time the doctor makes his arrangements to attend and take part in a social function and at the last moment his plans are all disarranged by some one who urgently requires his services. Not only so but even when he can, as it were, steal time for social enjoyment he is never free from the cares and responsibilities of his profession, and he knows full well that at any moment he may be hurried away from a scene of festivity to one of suffering and, perhaps, of death. When, however, he sets out for a meeting of his Association he lays aside his cares and has a delicious sense of freedom—a feeling that none but the busy practitioner can fully realize. He knows that his time is now his own—that no importunate patient is able to break in upon his enjoyment or rout him out in the middle of the night. It is true that such freedom from care may be obtained by simply taking a holiday trip but it has seemed to us that men, as a rule, can more fully realize the pleasures of social intercourse with those who are engaged in the same calling than they can with those whose interests are different. The Medical Association Meetings thus present all the advantages of a holiday trip together with those to be derived from social intercourse with those whose interests are similar.

Every practitioner knows that the life of a doctor is a laborious one—full of work—burdened with care—heavy with responsibilities—wearing upon the physical powers. To get clear for a few days each year from these cares and responsibilities is a necessity if one is to preserve his mental and physical powers in their full vigour. After such a vacation one feels that he has taken a new lease of life—that he has renewed his strength—that