

ganisation cannot long be deferred. Philanthropy is seeking more and more the guidance of principles and facts developed by the scientific method of observation and experiment.

It is certainly true that a physician can no longer even practice without taking his more intelligent patients into his confidence. A smattering of medical knowledge has become a part of a general education, just as some mathematics, astronomy, geography, &c., are a part of the mental furniture of the average thinking and reading man. The dignity of the profession is well maintained when patients are told that a knowledge of medical facts is common property, that there is some difference in the power of different men to observe symptoms, but that the great difference between physicians and between the physician and the layman is in the trained judgement that determines the relative importance of facts and the quantity, time, and character of treatment. Observe the really great physician at his work and you will find him studying his patient with tremendous intentness, observing and weighing every symptom, summoning for consideration one plan of treatment and another, considering the applicability of one drug and another, and finally, frequently enough not interfering in any way with the satisfactory course of a self-limited disease.

This picture is one of tremendous reserve power, that is the product of a trained mind and a sound judgement. Very different is it from the picture of the small minded man or the charlatan, who fires at every mark in the shape of a symptom, who grasps feebly at every therapeutic suggestion, who is too short-sighted to see the limits of his own power. The former physician has far more real power than the latter, and when the emergency arises will not neglect for a moment the necessary use of remedies and measures that would be entirely beyond the grasp of the weaker intellect. It is to train the public to believe in medicine as a science and to believe in the value of knowledge, training, and judgement, that is the duty of the profession to itself, and the only hope of saving to the profession of medicine the dignity of the past.

The modern school of scientific medicine relies for its recognition and support upon a public educated in modern philosophy, a public dominated by the scientific spirit of a scientific age. It claims an advantage that medical knowledge should be open to any curious seeker, and that many medical facts should be of the common knowledge of the people. The public has already acquired that little knowledge that is so dangerous. It will not give it up. Our only salvation is to go boldly forward and educate the masses to a point where they themselves can discriminate between knowledge and imposition. The enemies of medicine have already entered upon a flank movement, and the newspapers, in America particularly, are filled with advertisements of articles, some of which assume the names of great discoverers. This movement was only to be expected, and must be met, as I said before, by training, so that the people shall be able to discriminate between science and fraud. As time goes on there will be fewer and fewer men who can be called great because they are conspicuous above their fellows, not because of the inferiority of men of the present day, but because the average of attainment has been so advanced that it is more difficult for any one to become pre-eminent. The Academy of Medicine has played its part in justifying medical knowledge and disseminating medical truth, but it cannot rest on its oars. The conclusions of the discussions of yesterday have become the actual practice of to-day, and it must move on constantly to new fields, or must re-cultivate old fields that for a time have lain fallow. Medical truth can never be attained, but must be constantly sought.

It would seem that unconsciously, and with many forebodings of evil, the profession has worked up to a more scientific plane in the broadest sense of that term. In the process, as has ever been the case in progress, many old idols have been shattered and the discipline of newly recognised laws has had to be learned. A progress of knowledge and civilisation, as manifested in broader public education, in civil and political liberty, and in the highly organised business and social relations, has changed the profession in two