

practice. When cases of a certain kind accumulate in sufficient number to confer upon an individual special skill and experience in their management, it is highly proper for him to devote himself to their treatment, and much to the advantage of all concerned, for he will bring to bear upon his special work a mind well developed by general experience and well stored with the facts of General Pathology. The mutual inter-dependence of all parts of the Animal Economy renders it imperative, in my mind, that the Specialist should grow out of the General Practitioner, or else be prepared for his special work by long residence on all sides of a General Hospital (including the Pathological Department). Otherwise he may possess consummate technical skill but nine tithe of time, his knowledge will be as nothing to that of the family physician who adds to a liberal stock of general information an acquaintance with disease in general, and a knowledge of his patient, root and branch.

But the good old-fashioned practitioner is dying out and my jeremiad would be incomplete if it did not bemoan the passing of the family doctor, and, in the day of automobiles, that other noble and useful animal, the doctor's horse.

On the other branch of my subject—the Decadence of Scholarship in the Profession—I have but scant time to speak.

That the literary side of the preliminary preparation for a medical education is nowadays too much neglected and that a low level of scholarship obtains and is accepted, is abundantly evidenced by the characters of the answers given to examination questions, and by the questions themselves, by the applications and petitions of medical students to the various governing bodies, and by the formal announcements and kalendars of the Medical Colleges themselves.

A comparison of the literary style of the medical text-books of to-day with that of the past generation, enforces the same conclusion.

Now this defect of scholarship is associated with, and to my mind, too oft begets defect of manners; and the courtesy and old-time courtliness of professional intercourse is rapidly disappearing.

The pupil no longer greets his master with the outward evidences of profound respect, but commonly meets him on terms of equality. The practitioners of our art no longer manifest in their public intercourse and private conversation that deference which characterized the gentlemen of the old school. Nor is this decline of manners restricted to the lower walks of the profession—the student and the practitioner—but it has invaded with no less subtlety and certainty the higher ranks of the consultant. The time was when the consultant did not seek to glorify himself at the expense of the Family Doctor, and when the welfare of the patient was their united, single aim. Then, *after* consultation, the Family Doctor expressed to the patient and his friends the result of the