

authority, and my reading has been too meagre to attempt a summary having any pretention to completeness.

You will therefore bear with me if I leave the scientific side of the subject to those who are themselves engaged in original research, and are following closely the avenues opened up by other explorers.

My remarks will be confined to the socioethical domain of medicine—a field which to-day presents enough of unassimilated material to fill a large sized book. While the evolution of time has brought about great changes in the scientific aspect of the profession, a practical and ethical change in its methods is also rapidly taking place.

Where is the family physician of the past? A quarter of a century ago he was as much a social as a professional factor in family life. To-day, except in the country, he exists more as a "holy memory" than as an active and trusted quantity. He may still be retained as an occasional family adviser, in a sort of an abstract way, but his laurels are already on the brow of his juvenile coadjutor—the hustling specialist. This may be for the public weal, or the public woe, but the fact remains that the old and trusted family physician is passing into oblivion, appearing occasionally on the horizon as a mirage reflected by a McLaren when he invokes the shades of Drumtochty. Have any of you considered the cause of this decadence? Is it for want of individuality in the man himself? Want of training? Want of application? Want of skill? Has the adoption of commercial standards, or mercenary methods, on the part of himself or his rivals anything to do with it?

Whatever the causes are, we find him to-day split up into specialities, and the average family has taken on a sort of centrifugal action with respect to their ailments. The Major Domo has had a long standing hæmorrhoidal affection, and a "Rectal Specialist" has him in hand. Madame, in the struggle of maternity, has received injuries which she thinks require the services of a Gynecologist.

The elder son has a pain in his back and is doing his own "doctoring." The patent medicine advertisement is getting its deadly work in on him, and his pocketbook—and his back still aches.

The elder sister has trouble with her eyes, and an alleged oculist is treating them.

Another scion has a "catarrh" so called. He is in the hands of a "Throat and Lung Institute."

Another daughter has a friend who has an unrevealed trouble