

icus is appendicitis, just like Albert Edward's? Dr. Quintard not long ago wrote on this subject before the Société de Médecine d'Angeres. He deals with those people who approach the doctor with the deliberate intent to deceive him. There is the unmarried female—how lucky are the males!—who says she has undergone one operation for a tumor of the womb, but it has recurred, and she begs you to remove it. While you are dutiously doubting the tumor is removed by the obstetric art.

Great liars are those patients who belong to mutual benefit societies, life insurance and accident insurance. They seem to feel that they have a right to be sick and get a benefit, whether they must lie for it or not. In fact, there are so many varieties of patient liars that some doctors of large practice, who do not lie about the amount of their practice, are tempted to say in their hearts that all patients liars are. I sometimes feel like asking some of my patients to excuse the frankness founded on many years as a medical attendant, but that it is my honest belief that they would rather lie than tell the truth.

Untruthfulness is sometimes constitutional. It runs in families. Some lie because they cannot help it, some because they think it right, and some because they think it wrong. Charity leads to the belief that much lying is subconscious. Lying sometimes has its origin in an over-vivid imagination, in that wish to believe, which is the foundation of that faith which enables us to believe that which we know not to be true. This is possibly the explanation of the strange disregard of the truth in persons of otherwise unimpeachable character. Who has not, for instance, heard a doctor of otherwise irreproachable virtue, honest and truthful, who would lie like a trooper when it comes to talking about the amount of his practice. One would not feel so chagrined by being lied at by his patients were it not so many of the lies so barefaced that the doctor must conclude that the patient does him little credit for intelligence if he believes that he will believe them. Few of our patients probably realize the extent to which they lie. Some are conscious, others semi-conscious, others unconscious liars. Many lie to excite sympathy, others to escape work, to impose on charity, to pose as remarkable cases in journals and before societies, and others for the peculiar pleasure of deceiving. It is well known to experienced doctors that no reliance should be placed on what patients say about other doctors' patients or cases. This rule will save much unnecessary hard feeling the profession. The doctor should little heed what he hears, and go by the sense of sight and touch. Pediculosis may be found on the Governor and the garbage man. Polar purity does not prevent syphilis and gonorrhea. Lawyers, too, sometimes tussle with the untruth, which has led to the saying among them, "truth will out, even in an affidavit."

You ask me who shall hang the liars? Shall the honest man do it? If so, then the liars are also foolish, and the fools of the world are a large