

from all, whether friendly or inimical, and in such wise convince them that you are incapable of any dishonorable act. Avoid all innuendoes and sarcastic remarks to the laity in reference to opponents who may have offended you. Resolve once for all, to remain and act as a gentleman, be the provocation what it may, whether others do so or not. Remember, moreover, that duty and honor enjoin you to act rightly in all cases, not for policy's sake but because it is right. Do not, however, expect a like exactness in an enemy in return, for, were you as chaste as Diana, or as pure as the falling snow, you would scarcely escape misrepresentation by adversaries with jealous eyes and deceitful tongues. Imputations against your skill, unless very gross and damaging, had better be left unnoticed and though it may not improbably reach your ears that someone has remarked that so great was his want of faith in you professionally that he would not allow you to attend his ailing cat or dog, such ill natured observations need not disturb your equanimity nor be taken as personal but simply as expressions indicating a lack of individual faith in your professional ability. Such incidents occur to every practitioner, and, although they grate harshly on the ear of the one affected, they differ altogether from personal libels such as charges of being a drunkard and the like.

Be guarded and circumspect in speaking of the extent of your practice and do not boast of your assumed wonderful cures. All such boastful pretensions are very apt to give rise to envy, disbelief, and adverse criticism.

In addition to keeping abreast with the times in professional knowledge it is well that you should be conversant with general scientific subjects and also with general literature, with a view of putting yourself on a conversational level with the cultured classes of society with whom you may be brought into contract.

Tact, delicacy of perception, the power of winning the patient's confidence, of allaying his fears and comforting him in pain, and at the same time keeping clear of his prejudices, are essentialities of vital importance and should be assiduously cultivated.

Be careful not to indulge in gossip. Take especial care, while in contact with scandal mongers, to keep the conversation if possible on abstract or general topics, and determinately avoid, and if need be, courteously reprove, censorious reflections on individuals in their private affairs. Let your manner, conversation, jests, and the like, ever be chaste and pure. Never forget yourself on this all important point, for nothing can well be more injurious to a medical practitioner than the revelation of an impure mind.

The reputation of being a very nice man is, with many, more potent even than skill. To be both affable and skilful forms a very strong combination and one that is calculated to waft the possessor to the pinnacle of professional success and repute.

Cheerfulness is a never failing source of influence. It is a mistake to think that the science of medicine is gloomy and that a physician should always bear a serious countenance; on the other hand a bright and cheerful one is very desirable. Approach the sick with grave cheer-