

for the individual member of the staff to miss it. We must not forget that when we treat free at a dispensary or in a hospital, a patient who is able to pay even a very moderate fee, we are depriving some fellow practitioner of the possibility of earning a portion of his livelihood, and doing our best to pauperize some member of the community. Even now many patients and their friends are under the impression that members of the medical staffs of our hospitals are paid handsomely, and that they have the right to the services of such members without giving to them any fee or reward, the only condition being that the patient is able to secure admission to a public hospital. If a city hospital is chosen, what is the result? The institution secures the Government grant, which now amounts to about thirty cents a day, and the city grant, which is forty cents a day, amounting to \$4.90 a week. The doctor, though he does not secure enough to pay a car fare, may become the proprietor of a law suit for heavy damages if the results of his efforts are not to the liking of his client.

There are many phases of the question of "medical charity" which might be touched upon, but perhaps enough has already been stated. The subject should receive more attention from medical men, not in any one-sided way, but from the broadest view, seeking to adopt such methods as will tend to the elevation not only of the people but also to the benefit of the medical profession.

There is still another phase of "medical charity" which should be touched upon, even at the risk of proving tedious beyond endurance, viz.: "Charity one to another." Are we always as careful in this respect as we ought to be? Do we ever "damn" a confrere by faint praise? Do we stand by one another as men ought to do, who are engaged in the same honorable calling, who face the same difficulties and dangers, and who are striving for the same high standing?

There is no profession or calling in which a man is compelled to put forth more energy, to show more patience and perseverance, or to exercise more self-restraint. It were well then that we should deal kindly one with another, and that we should so act that we would have the full confidence not only of the public, but also what is more valuable of one another. Then let us work together for the greatest good to the many, and in the strictest sense for "medical charity."