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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

### \*MEDICAL ETHICS AND WHAT PERTAINS TO A PHYSICIAN'S REPUTATION AND SUCCESS.

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Your Executive Committee asked me to give you an address this evening on Medical Ethics, and I have taken the liberty of adding to this a few remarks on what pertains to a physician's reputation and success.

In the preparation of this subject I have received many valuable suggestions from a book on the "Young Physician" by De Styrap, and from which I will make many quotations.

The first part of the subject we will consider under the following headings.

*First*, The duties of physicians to their patients.

*Secondly*, The duties of physicians to each other.

*Thirdly*, The duties of the profession to the public.

#### THE DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO THEIR PATIENTS.

1. *Responsibility*. A physician should be imbued with a full sense of the greatness of his work and its responsibility.

2. *Careful attention*. Every case should be treated with care and serious attention.

3. *Secrecy*. Secrecy, when special circumstances demand it, and delicacy in all cases, should be observed. The obligation to secrecy extends beyond the period of professional attendance. No circumstance connected with the privacies of personal or domestic life, observed during professional attendance, should ever be divulged by the physician except when he is imperatively required to do so. So great is the necessity of this obligation that courts of justice protect professional men in their observance of secrecy under certain circumstances.

4. *Prognosis*. Avoid giving gloomy prognostications, for the physician should be the minister of hope and a comfort to the sick. The friends

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\*Read before the University of Toronto Undergraduates' Medical Society.