

and noble as are the ends, the bonds, the necessary bonds, for most are weakening.

Our profession is girt about with no such limitations. We can think freely, we can and should employ any and all means that prove themselves good. As men and free agents we are untrammelled in the exercise of our life's work. The only serious doubts that can come to us in labouring faithfully are as to whether we fulfil our mission and do aright when we save sundry who, continuing to exist, will have feeble and diseased progeny, and will lower the quality of the race, or when with unceasing care we oil the lamp of life in those to whom euthanasia would bring abiding rest. But the remembrance of our duty stills these doubts—our duty is to save. It is not given to us to determine who is of value and who is valueless; that is not in our hands. We have the consolation that while in a few cases we may seem to be aiding and abetting the degeneracy of the race, in general by our work and its influence, we are raising the standard of existence, lengthening the life of each and making the race healthier.

If, then, our profession be noble, it behoves each one of us and of you to do nothing that shall degrade it. Its dignity and high standing depends upon the dignity and standing of each member, and each one that lowers his individual standard lowers medicine. With Bacon, "I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and ornament thereunto." Thus while the fullest freedom is yours to do what seems good in your work, as workers, and in the manner of your work your duty to the body corporate of medicine must ever be kept in remembrance, and faithfully acted upon.

It may be that at times you will find it hard to act up to your duty and that the trial of your loyalty may be a sore trial. I say this advisedly. It may, for example, seem hard to you that men in trade can compound medi-