

MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

The formation of medical societies is a matter which should receive the attention of the medical profession more than at present. True, there are societies in successful operation in some parts of the country, but in the great majority of places there are no such organizations. In parts of the country where they have been established, they have been found useful in promoting harmony and good feeling among the various members of the profession, in determining the rules of etiquette, in regulating to a certain extent the tariff of charges, and in driving from the ranks men who are unworthy their calling.

It is an old motto, that "Union is strength," and this is true in every sense of the term, as applied to the medical profession. No great reform can be secured except by united effort, and in asking for any enactments for the benefit of the profession, or demanding the redress of any grievance, the voice of a society—speaking unanimously for or against a measure, as the case may be—will carry greater weight with it than that of private individual members, no matter how influential they may be.

There are many grievances which could easily be remedied, if the profession were only more united, and more active and energetic in looking after their own interests. A great many complaints are made by individual members, from time to time, in reference to the defective state of the laws regarding the giving of evidence in criminal cases; but from want of united effort on the part of the medical men themselves, nothing is done, nor is likely to be done.

One great object of medical societies is to promote harmony and unanimity of sentiment among the professional brethren. They can meet together at stated periods, and discuss matters pertaining to their calling on common ground, and thereby become better acquainted with each other, and be less likely to fall into the error—too often incurred—that of treating every professional brother, with whom they are not on intimate terms, as an enemy. They also tend to promote liberality and brotherly feeling, to awaken a lively interest in the general welfare of the profession, and afford an excellent opportunity for mutual improvement, by the reading of papers and the discussion of subjects of interest occurring in practice. Difficult and