

meetings are held, must be governed by special conditions. The rooms should be centrally situated, suitably furnished, well ventilated and lighted. Experience fully proves that meetings held weekly or bi-weekly are much better attended than those held at longer intervals. The meetings should open at the appointed hour. They should not, as a rule, extend over two hours, as long hours exhaust vitality and impair the interest in the proceedings. I suppose it is a matter of individual opinion as to whether or not we should retire immediately after the session is over, or spend a few minutes socially over some light refreshments. Personally, I prefer the latter, as it affords an opportunity for the members to become better known to each other, and as a result to become better friends.

We come now to consider the most essential part of the equipment of the medical society—the papers, discussions, and the presentation of cases, pathological specimens, photos, instruments and surgical appliances.

Before entering upon the discussion of these, permit me to make a short digression, for I wish to state as emphatically as I can, that there is an imperative obligation resting upon every member of a medical society, not only to attend its meetings as regularly as possible, but also to take an active part in the work. The function of a medical society is not to nurture drones and parasites, but to be a school in which all are experts and zealous students, imparting and acquiring knowledge.

PAPERS.

In preparing a paper at least three features should be most religiously kept in view. It should be practical, tersely and concisely written in technical language, and brief. In a society like this one, which includes the whole field of medicine and surgery, the writer of a paper has a great variety of subjects to choose from. When a choice has been made, the writer should strive to imitate the true artist—stamp his individuality on his work. He should never leave it possible for anyone to say that his paper was simply a mere repetition of what has been written in books or journals. Before writing his article, he should read every book and journal that can aid him; but his paper should be as characteristically his own as are his features or tone of voice. What one reads and hears should be to the mind what wholesome food is to the body. The cantatrice transforms her food into musical symphonies that are enchanting, and the statesman his dinner into words that are lustily cheered by his followers. If this be true of physical nutriment (and it is a scientific fact that without the proper assimilation of food we could have neither song nor speech), why not make as great a transformation in our mental pabulum? The auditory and