

the case, or been regularly notified that his services are no longer desired. Under such circumstances no unjust and illiberal insinuations should be thrown out in relation to the conduct or practice previously pursued, which should be justified as far as candor and regard for truth and probity will permit; for it often happens that patients become dissatisfied when they do not experience immediate relief, and, as many diseases are naturally protracted, the want of success in the first stage of treatment affords no evidence of a lack of professional knowledge and skill.

5. When a physician is called to an urgent case, because the family attendant is not at hand, he ought, unless his assistance in consultation be desired, to resign the care of the patient to the latter immediately on his arrival.

6. It often happens in cases of sudden illness, or of recent accidents and injuries, owing to the alarm and anxiety of friends, that a number of physicians are simultaneously sent for. Under these circumstances, courtesy should assign the patient to the first who arrives, who should select from those present any additional assistance that he may deem necessary. In all such cases, however, the practitioner who officiates should request the family physician, if there be one, to be called, and, unless his further attendance be requested, should resign the case to the latter on his arrival.

7. When a physician is called to the patient of another practitioner,*in consequence of the sickness or absence of the latter, he ought on the return or recovery of the regular attendant, and with the consent of the patient, to surrender the case.

8. A physician, when visiting a sick person in the country, may be desired to see a neighboring patient who is under the regular direction of another physician, in consequence of some sudden change or aggravation of symptoms. The conduct to be pursued on such an occasion is to give advice adapted to present circumstances; to interfere no further than is absolutely necessary with the general plan of treatment; to assume no future direction unless it be expressly desired; and, in this last case, to request an immediate consultation with the practitioner previously employed.

9. A wealthy physician should not give advice

gratis to the affluent; because his doing so is an injury to his professional brethren. The office of a physician can never be supported as an exclusively beneficent one; and it is defrauding, in some degree, the common funds for its support, when fees are dispensed with, which might justly be claimed.

10. When a physician who has been engaged to attend a case of midwifery is absent and another is sent for, if delivery is accomplished during the attendance of the latter, he is entitled to the fee, but should resign the patient to the practitioner first engaged.

REVIEW.

A practical treatise on Materia Medica and Therapeutics. BY ROBERT BARTHOLOW, M.A., M.D., LL.D., Professor of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics in Jefferson Medical College, New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1887.

Of the many medical writers of which the United States can boast, there are few, if any, of a more practical turn of mind than the author of this volume. In whatever direction his investigations may proceed, there is but one object they have in view, and that is, that they shall lead to practical results. He is, moreover, no skeptic as regards the power of medicine to produce results; on the contrary, he is a firm believer on the therapeutics of medicine. With such qualifications, Dr. Bartholow could not but make this volume a valuable one, and it is valuable not only to students but to practitioners.

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*The expression, "patient of another practitioner," is understood to mean a patient who may have been under the charge of another practitioner at the time of the attack of sickness, or departure from home of the latter, or who may have called for his attendance during his absence or sickness, or in any other manner given it to be understood that he regarded the said physician as his regular medical attendant.