

In leaving this subject I want to say a few words on the use of drugs. Let me warn you against taking a medicine on the theory that "it won't do any harm if it does no good." You are living in too intellectual an age to submit to that form of medication. First, be sure that you need a remedy, and then be sure that you are taking the one that will benefit you. Be satisfied when, after an examination by your physician, he simply tells you to correct your habits of life. Don't think that because he didn't give you seven prescriptions, he don't understand his business. Conclude rather that he is not financially interested in a drug store. Again, when a physician prescribes a four ounce mixture for you, do not have it repeated and repeated indefinitely. If he had intended that you should take a barrel of the stuff he would have prescribed it in that quantity in the first place, and you could have saved money by dealing with a wholesale store. Again, don't think that a medicine must necessarily taste like shoe dressing to be efficacious. Modern pharmacy has made it possible to take at least some preparations without facial contortions or acrobatic accompaniment.

A word about domestic remedies. Many of them are good. The hot foot bath, the poultice, the hot application, the alcoholic bath and many other of the simpler remedies have their fields of usefulness. I honour the good old mother who does her best to assuage the pain of suffering humanity. She knows nothing of psychological therapeutics or suggestion, but her tender touch and kindly smile should bear a higher sounding name. She is a close observer of symptoms, and is a natural help to the most skilled physician. She is the mother whose kiss brought back the merry laugh of childhood. She is the mother of thoughtfulness, tenderness and love—our own mother. I speak of her with reverence, and I think of her with gratitude. While worshipping at the shrine of Aesculapius, I do not forget her kindly voice and angelic touch.

It will not be out of place to touch briefly upon another subject, upon which many persons have a false conception of the duties of the physician. It has always seemed strange to me that enlightened and even highly educated people should believe that in some special cases the physician is not only justified in taking life, but that it is his duty to do so. Men have recently advocated a return to the old Greek custom of destroying all imperfect infants, but no one takes them seriously. True, the paramount idea in many minds seems to be that a beefy football team is more of a credit to a university than is a development of brains, and if we did not possess a