

22. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PHYSICIANS.

Diversity of opinion and opposition may, in the medical as in other professions, sometimes cause controversy and even contention. Whenever such unfortunate cases occur and cannot be immediately adjusted, they should be referred to the arbitration of a sufficient number of impartial physicians. A peculiar reserve should be maintained by physicians toward the public in regard to certain professional questions, and neither the subject matter of differences nor the result of an arbitration should be made public.

23. COMPENSATION.

By the members of no profession are gratuitous services more liberally dispensed than by the medical, but justice requires that some limit be placed to their performance. Poverty, mutual professional obligations and certain public duties should always be recognized as presenting valid claims for gratuitous services; but neither institutions endowed by the public or the rich, or by societies for mutual benefit, for life insurance or for analogous purposes, nor any profession or occupation, can be admitted to possess such privilege.

It can not be justly expected of physicians to furnish certificates of inability to serve on juries, or to perform militia duty; to testify to the state of health of persons wishing to insure their lives, obtain pensions, or the like, without due compensation. But to persons in indigent circumstances such services should always be cheerfully and freely accorded.