

the obstetrician, and the latter has not failed to profit by what he has seen therein. It would not be surprising, then, if he studied gynecology for the better understanding of his own specialty; but this does not seem to be the reason why. For, however well equipped he may be in his special knowledge, he does not claim to be an obstetrician practising in the light of gynecology; rather is he a gynecologist who practises obstetrics as a side-branch. Does not this present the spectacle of "the horse riding inside the cart"?

An obstetrician should undoubtedly know gynecology. If he would advance he must study his own science by reflected light; but he should not practise both specialties. Where he gains in one, he will lose in the other; for it is a clever man who is a complete master of *one* trade. Indeed, we are inclined to think that, in adopting the practice of gynecology, an obstetrician rather interferes with his usefulness as a practical obstetrician. He is apt to become prejudiced by his new training. A gynecologist is accustomed to repair the *results* of obstetrical mistakes; he goes to Nature's assistance after she has completed her immediate efforts at repair and is quiescent—when she is "stalled," as it were, and is waiting for assistance. And if he attempts with equal assurance, as he is apt to do, to apply these same methods when Nature is in an active, intolerant mood, as in childbed, he will often find his confidence misplaced.

Finally, we believe in specialties strictly adhered to. Their existence is at the same time a confession of the paucity and inaccuracy of our knowledge and the best remedy for these. In the present state of medical science, specialties are the necessary stimulus and the quickest method by which to approach scientific exactitude. In the medical millennium, there will be no specialists nor need of any; our successors of that time may rely on their title of general practitioners. But the millennium for us is a long way off, and we shall, therefore, hail the day when our many distinguished and deservedly eminent obstetricians will be proud of this title and content to be known as *specialists in obstetrics*. Then will this noble science receive a new impetus and advance with giant strides, until the time arrives when gynecology will have fulfilled its end and will receive

its euthanasia.—*Editorial, American Gynecological and Surgical Journal.*

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STATUS OF MEDICAL MEN.

It is about time that the medical profession set about seriously to assert its rights and to resist the tyranny which time out of mind has been assailing it.

Many articles have been written in medical journals and in books showing how our profession is imposed upon, but still the work goes on. It seems to be generally agreed on all sides that the medical profession is a fair field for plunder; and the most that can be got out of it for the least money, so much the better. It is not that there is anything mean or small about the disciples of Esculapius in their dealings with their fellow-creatures, for a more altruistic body of men it would be hard to find. If such exists anywhere they will have to be sought in some other planet, for certainly they are not to be discovered on the earth. In that bright sphere of the West called the evening star, which bears the name of the goddess of Love, there may be creatures who in their self-sacrificing affection for their species may rival the extraordinary beings we are now speaking of belonging to this world, but as we have never heard of them, the palm must still be retained by the human bipeds known as the followers of Galen.

From the nature of his calling the medical man is liable to be summoned at any hour of the day or night. To state this is only to repeat a common-place remark. But it is in the readiness with which the physician responds to appeals to his assistance that he shows himself to be the real friend of suffering humanity, and one would think that the gratitude of society would be spontaneously extended to him. On the contrary it tries to do him up on every possible occasion, and if he makes a mistake or is guilty of the slightest moral lapse, nothing too severe can be done or said against him.

The physician is one of those unfortunate men