

frequent affliction of nervous patients suffering from gout or anemia. It may therefore be advisable to endeavor to modify this constitutional anomaly by means of alkalies, nerve-sedatives, and tonics."

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### MULTIPLICITY OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES: CONSOLIDATION THE NEED OF THE HOUR.

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OF the utility of organization, and of that special kind that is exemplified in the medical society, there can be no shadow of doubt. In union there is power and in well-directed organization progress. The tendency of the day is toward centralization rather than the opposite, and it is from this point of view that we wish to say a few words, suggestive rather than conclusive, with regard to the waste of energy, time and resources entailed upon the medical profession by reason of the existence and continued organization of what appear to us unnecessarily large numbers of medical societies.

Thus, we have several organizations of national scope and membership; in most commonwealths, State medical societies, and in the counties, cities and towns thereof, usually local and constituent bodies. In the large cities, as for instance, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia, there are often several individual bodies whose work and membership are of a general and similar character, and, besides, a large number with independent organizations devoted to the special departments of medicine; not including the intramural collegiate societies that exist in some places almost without number. There must thus result a considerable waste of time, energy and money, and it seems that with such a division—one might say dissipation—of forces, the influence for good that the constituent membership would otherwise be capable of wielding must be materially attenuated.

It is in this spirit that we beg, therefore, to make a plea for consolidation, for a union of forces, that the greatest good may inure to the largest number. Why need there be more than one great national American medical body—as there is but one great national British medical body—with the organization of sections in all of the departments of medicine? Each State and Territory would also require but one central organization, and one society would suffice for each county, with as many special and geographic divisions and branches as the exigencies of the individual case would demand.

The difficulties of such consolidation and reorganization as we suggest are not insurmountable; the details could easily be arranged, and the result, if consummated, would unify and strengthen the medical profession as no other measure is capable of doing. With such a united body the cause of preventive medicine would be greatly forwarded. Besides antivivisection and antivaccination, there will be other battles to be fought in the public welfare, and