

the swift current of scientific advance and surgical evolution into an eddy of retrospective reverie, offering passage by a deep and steady channel of present attainments to a limitless ocean of unfathomed depths.

So much are we engrossed at these periodical gatherings with scientific discussion that it appears to me not unwise if we devote a little time and thought to the ethical aspect of our profession.

As no distinctions of race or nationality are recognized by us, so in our ministrations to the public during the discharge of professional duties, we stand upon an isolated plane and require to be most careful that we retain in the public eye the respect and confidence bequeathed by our predecessors. Having lived and labored under some of the old, and now superseded, methods of practice, and in older Canada, the difference of the attitude of the public towards us as a profession, compared with that of years ago, is very apparent. As custodians of the public and private health, we should deserve and command a greater degree of public confidence than I fear is bestowed upon us. Why such relations? There may be some cause of fault with the public. We may at times think them hypercritical; yet we all recognize that honest criticism is beneficial and stimulative towards better and more perfected effort. Since it is "our duty to the public" that is under consideration, I shall not attempt to deal with "the duty of the public to us," but will endeavor to make a few observations which I trust may arouse sufficient thoughtful interest in our professional musings from which possible benefit may accrue.

That many causes exist with us whereby this loss of professional prestige has become so general I am convinced all present will admit. As to how numerous the causes are which have produced such effects and the remedy to be applied or counteracting course adopted, I really think it impossible, in the short time at my disposal, and also inadvisable to undertake the enumeration of, or suggest remedies. Every man is conscious of individual defects of character, temperament, disposition and qualification or fitness for the position he may be called upon to fill. The medical profession offers no easy grade nor substitutional discharge of duty whereby such natural discounting defects might be counterbalanced in some other profession, trade or calling, for the physician must personally attend to duties, no proxy often being worth considering. Hence, upon his individual fitness and possession of those inherent qualities (educational training being granted), tact, good judgment, knowledge of human nature, etc., which go toward making a good physician, de-