

by their fellows; the indolent and indifferent—quite too numerous a class; and, perhaps, the most pitiable of all, those who cling to the delusion that they must cherish a real or imaginary grievance against some member or members of the society. These feel their loss keenly, but still hold that it is their duty to immolate themselves on the altar of revenge. Some may say, "Well, if these do not wish to attend let them stay away, we can get along without them." Could we dispose of these classes in this cursory manner, it certainly would be an easy way to get rid of them. But can we do so? These men are members of our profession, and the old adage holds true in our case as in all others, that "a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, a fleet no swifter than its slowest vessel, nor a fortress any stronger than its weakest point." A majority of the cases of sickness fall into the hands of the nearest physicians; and, if any of these be less competent because they will not avail themselves of the help a medical society can render, their incompetency and ignorance imperil life and bring opprobrium on an honorable profession. Have those of us who can speak from experience of the value of the medical society no missionary work to do among these classes who do not attend its meetings? Should we leave egotism, ignorance, indifference and petty jealousies to exercise their baneful influence? Is there any better way to get rid of evils than to expose them? "Is not he who is afraid to see, and dare not mention the wrongdoing of himself and his colleagues, his profession's worst enemy?" Should we not govern our own lives, and as far as lies in our power, help others to govern theirs, by the abstract truths that "right is right, wrong is wrong, and duty is duty?" Unless the wisest, most cultured and upright men have erred in judgment, or have been deceived by experience, their actions prove that the medical society is the right place for every medical man, inspired with any desire for more knowledge, wider experience, and greater skill.

THE EQUIPMENT.

The question of equipment is always involved in the character of the work to be done. Upholstered furniture would not be an essential part in the equipment of a dissecting room. It might represent surplus wealth or a morbid type of refinement; but strong tables and adjustable stools would answer much better. So in a medical society, learned papers and discussions on mere abstract theories might exhibit mental acumen, but the record of everyday experience would be of much greater utility.

The equipment of a medical society, in so far as the place of meeting is concerned, and the frequency with which the