

the dwellers in these islands as "mostly fools," and we freely admit that we all have some weak point; perhaps even the cynical philosopher himself had. If we study the weakness of our fellow creatures in order to prey upon them, to deceive them, or to work upon their vanity or their ignorance, we lower our moral nature, and do ourselves infinitely more harm than we do them. But if we take the word of Pope that "the noblest study of mankind is man," if we study human nature with the idea of benefiting by that which is good, and of being helpful to that which is weak, ignorant or misguided, our knowledge of human nature will be a help to ourselves and cannot fail to bring us the respect of those with whom we come in contact, whether patients or not.

And we may here briefly discuss how far it is advisable to make friends of our patients or they of us. We have heard it said, "I do not object to my friend becoming my patient, but I object to my patient becoming my friend." We are inclined to agree with this axiom, though not altogether. There can be no objection to our friend becoming our patient, though it is quite possible to imagine a case in which we had rather it did not occur; but, as regards the other clause, we think there can be very little difference of opinion. It is better for the friendly relations between dentist and client to be confined to the consulting room. The fact of a professional acquaintance existing, should give neither party the right to presume upon it in any way. If either chooses to ignore the other's presence under other circumstances he has a perfect right to do so. The unwritten laws of good taste and right feeling will guide those who possess them; those who do not are not worth worrying about.

It is interesting to watch the change of feeling which has gradually come over the public mind during the years gone by as regards the status granted to various professions. At one time a man, to be a gentleman, was either a fighter or a cleric. Might was right in this life, so the fighter was an important person—and still is. The importance of the cleric lay in his assumed power over the future life—this also lingers to a large extent. In course of time, as right began to assert itself, the lawyer became more important, was admitted to some of the highest positions in the State, and it became recognized that the law, too, was a profession which a gentleman might enter. Medicine, which meekly limped behind her prouder sisters, has raised her head during this century in a remarkable manner, and we have had the satisfaction of seeing, ere its close, a medical man as a Minister of the crown and another a peer of the realm. If we read the description of medical men and medical students as portrayed in the novels of fifty years ago, we are struck by the difference existing to-day. Dr. Smollett, when serving as "surgeon's mate" on board a man-of-war a hundred