

therefore conclude that their absence will not be felt. These men seem to overlook the fact that the presence of a large appreciative audience is one of the most important factors that go to make up a successful gathering.

3. Morbid Indifference.—The adage is no less true than trite, that “no man liveth unto himself.” The physician who is solely “in” his profession for all he can get out of “it,” utterly regardless as to whether his profession is keeping abreast of “the times” or not, is either a monstrosity incapable of appreciating his obligations to his profession, or else a parasite willing to live upon the labor of others, but unwilling to contribute anything himself.

4. Morbid Fears.—How many physicians believe that they must spend their whole life within easy call of their patients. These timid souls seem to imagine that if they were to take a few hours, or a day or two, to attend a medical association, their whole practice would immediately go to the “bow-wows.” This is a delusion, for the separation is invariably mutually advantageous. The patients realize, probably for the first time, what a great privilege it is to have the prompt attendance of a physician in whom they have full confidence, and the physician is getting the change and the wider views that will add very materially to the character of his work.

Many more morbid elements suggest themselves; but I must hurry on to briefly discuss the second phase of this question, viz.: What is radically wrong with the character of such meetings or the methods in which they are conducted.

1. Morbid Character of Papers.—A medical audience is a keenly critical one. It quickly discovers the motive of the reader, as to whether his paper is intended to be an honest contribution to scientific medicine, a personal advertisement, or an act of mere courtesy to the president. Any paper worthy of the attention of a medical association must be on a subject suitable to the audience, and be an accurate, intelligible presentation of the subject in keeping with the scientific attainments of the day.

2. Morbid Length of Papers.—Is there anything that has a more demoralizing influence on the minds of an audience than to see the reader of a paper unfold a role of twenty or thirty pages? All inspiration is at once dispelled, pleasure vanishes, and a sullen determination to endure the agony as best they can, creeps over the listeners.

3. Morbid Character of the Discussions.—It is said that the distance a cannon can throw a projectile can be roughly estimated by the weight of the former over the latter. The proportion is about as 100 to 1 for great propelling power. The influence a man can wield over his fellows is governed by his character, tact and intelligence. How often does it happen