

power—individually we may possess some—collectively it is small indeed. We are classed as one of the three learned professions, Divinity, Law and Medicine, but we are placed at the foot of the list. I claim that we should stand second. What aim can be higher than the cure of disease and the relief of suffering? Our portals are guarded by more numerous and stricter examinations than all others. We are trusted by all classes. An eloquent writer has truly said: "Go into the abodes of the sick and the poor and the deserted wherever there is disease or distress, there you will find some medical practitioner exercising his glorious art patiently, freely and fearlessly for those whom poverty or vice, or the breath of pestilence, has deprived of every other friend. Or again follow him among the higher class of patients and you will there find him the friend, and honest adviser of those who can seldom hear truth from any other lips."

As Oliver Wendell Holmes aptly puts it: "Hour after hour the busy day has found the good physician on his lonely round, mansion and hovel, low and lofty door, he knows his journey, every path explore."

Its members perform more gratuitous work than those of all other professions combined. It is true the appeals of suffering humanity should be obeyed. But they are given so long and so freely, that the State and the public demand it as a right. Now the question may be asked, is it right or is it just that the State and the public should allow the medical profession to do their medical charity, particularly when it receives such scant recognition at the hands of either? It may be safely claimed that the remuneration paid by the State to any of its medical officers would not equal that paid to a third rate lawyer.

It is estimated that in London one in every two persons receives charitable medical relief at the out-patient department of the hospitals, and that 50 per cent. of those receiving this charity are able to pay for advice and medicine. This statement is corroborated by the fact that there are nearly 80,000 daily occupied beds with a proportionate number of out-patients. This great and laborious work is freely given, "asking no reward save Heaven's 'well done.'" Yet their employers, like the "horse-leech," continually demand more. While the members of the profession should be proud and glad to minister to the sufferings of the deserving poor, they should call a halt, except when the institution is supported by voluntary subscription; by so doing they give their quota, a large one it is true, towards its support. But when the hospital is State-supported, endowed, or becomes a commercial undertaking by receiving pay patients, they