

usefulness will widen. The health preserving function of the profession is of vital importance and is becoming more widely utilized by the intelligent public. Princes and men of wealth have always had their body physicians, and the time may come when it will be the rule in the case of families to make a yearly contract on the same plan. It will then be the object of the family physician to keep the family well.

All the changes which have taken place in the conditions of practice have led to greater pressure upon the doctor. Never has the laborer been more worthy of his hire. If disease has diminished, treatment has grown and is on the increase, and the labor of treatment is greater, as the details are amplified and require more minute care. There is not only the patient but the nurse to direct, whose skill renders many measures possible which without her could not be applied and so a great deal more is attempted and accomplished. The sick room is a busier field than it was wont to be and the doctor's call is not a formality wasted in ordinary conversation.

It is also one of the characteristics of the age that there is less inclination to bow to authority and, on the part of the patient and friends, to accept without question the advice of their once trusted attendant. There is a restlessness in their desire to consult various authorities and so the old relationship between the patient and his medical adviser is disappearing, much to the disadvantage of both. There is an old saying "it is much easier to treat the patient than to treat the patient's friends," who so often speak with assurance only proportionate to their ignorance of the subject. Formerly the family attendant felt secure, and from his knowledge of antecedents acted with more certainty than the casual attendant. How much better it is for the patient when he leaves to his own faithful adviser, as difficulties arise, the selection of the help most likely to be of service. The patient's advantage lies in a co-operation between his regular medical attendant and his occasional adviser, and the cultivation of this professional intercourse tends to strengthen the bond of professional brotherhood. "When doctors differ who shall decide? but when doctors agree who shall venture to differ?"