

charlatans practising under a regular diploma and protected by a certificate of registration, men who degrade their high calling by pandering to popular applause—by resorting to illicit and irregular methods for gaining practice or position. It is the duty of an enlightened and united profession to frown down anything and everything that savors of meanness or professional misconduct. Not until we rise above the strife and meanness and chicanery that disfigures the noblest of all professions, save one—not until by self-sacrifice and professional uprightness we prove ourselves worthy, shall we receive that due measure of public recognition which we so much long for.

3. EDUCATE THE PEOPLE.

Could we succeed in eradicating from the public mind the various forms of error regarding the theory and practice of medicine we would succeed in removing one of the most effective barriers to our individual usefulness, as well as one of the chief causes for that lack of cordial appreciation of our merits as a profession to which I have already adverted. That this would be a task of herculean proportions, I readily admit; but a due appreciation of its importance, a just conception of our responsibilities as public educators, would remove many a difficulty. Our spheres of usefulness are not limited by our daily routine of seeing patients and prescribing for them. We must educate them. Our daily contact with the people and our intimate relation to them as family physicians gives us many opportunities of imparting instruction on matters medical. Much information can be given without compromising the private rights of the physician or the dignity of the profession. Some of the medical journals are advocating popular addresses on medical topics on the evenings set apart for the expensive and useless banquets. I commend this to the earnest consideration of this society.

It is not enough that we do our best to lift up the people to a higher plane of scientific medical knowledge. It is our business also to instruct them in the laws of health—to teach them temperance, temperance in eating and drinking,—temperance in the indulgence of those organic functions, the abuse of which makes so many moral and physical wrecks. It is our duty to show the people how to restrain their passions by restraining our own—to elevate the standard of moral and physical purity the fostering of which is an earnest of the highest type of manhood and womanhood. In order to teach purity the medical man must be pure himself; pure in thought, pure in word, pure in act, so that by practice as well as by precept, he may win the confidence and esteem of those with whom his daily rounds of duty bring him in contact. The churches are sending medical missionaries to the heathen. There is much need of them at home. It is our duty to preach as well as to practice.