

THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

OF THE DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO EACH OTHER,
AND TO THE PROFESSION AT LARGE.

ART. I.—*Duties for the support of professional character.*

1. Every individual, on entering the profession, as he becomes thereby entitled to all its privileges and immunities, incurs an obligation to exert his best abilities to maintain its dignity and honor, to exalt its standing, and to extend the bounds of its usefulness. He should, therefore, observe strictly such laws as are instituted for the government of its members; should avoid all contumelious and sarcastic remarks relative to the faculty as a body; and while, by unwearied diligence, he resorts to every honorable means of enriching the science, he should entertain a due respect for his seniors, who have, by their labors, brought it to the elevated condition in which he finds it.

2. It is not in accord with the interests of the public or the honor of the profession that any physician or medical teacher should examine or sign diplomas or certificates of proficiency for, or otherwise be specially concerned with, the graduation of persons who, they have good reason to believe, intend to support and practice any exclusive and irregular system of medicine.

3. There is no profession from the members, of which greater purity of character and a higher standard of moral excellence are required, than the medical; and to attain such eminence is a duty every physician owes alike to his profession and to his patients. It is due to the latter, as without it he cannot command their respect and confidence; and to both, because no scientific attainments can compensate for the want of correct moral principles. It is also incumbent upon the faculty to be temperate in all things, for the practice of physic requires the unremitting exercise of a clear and vigorous understanding; and, on emergencies, for which no professional man should be unprepared, a steady hand, an acute eye, and an unclouded head may be essential to the well-being, and even to the life, of a fellow creature.

4. It is derogatory to the dignity of the profession to resort to public advertisements, or private cards, or handbills, inviting the attention of individuals affected with particular diseases—publicly offering advice and medicine to the poor gratis; or promising radical cures; or to publish cases and operations in the daily prints, or suffer

such publications to be made; to invite laymen to be present at operations, to boast of cures and remedies, to adduce certificates of skill and success, or to perform any other similar acts. These are the ordinary practices of empirics, and are highly reprehensible in a regular physician.

5. Equally derogatory to professional character is it for a physician to hold a patent for any surgical instrument or medicine; or to dispense a secret *nostrum*, whether it be the composition or exclusive property of himself or of others. For, if such nostrum be of real efficacy, any concealment regarding it is inconsistent with beneficence and professional liberality; and if mystery alone give it value and importance, such craft implies either disgraceful ignorance or fraudulent avarice. It is also reprehensible for physicians to give certificates attesting the efficacy of patent or secret medicines, or in any way to promote the use of them.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Gardner, Professor of Gynecology in McGill College, owing to continued ill health, has decided to leave about the 1st July for a few months' holiday in Europe. Our confrère is a prime favorite with the profession, and we cannot afford to lose him, so that we join in the general wish of his numerous friends that he may return with his health and strength firmly re-established.

Dr. Stewart of McGill has left town to spend a few months in Europe.

Dr. F. W. Campbell, Dean of Bishops' College, has been called away to Metapedia, to attend a wealthy New Yorker. It is probable that he will combine business with pleasure and make his visit a "flying" one in a double sense, and we hope with his usual success.

Dr. Major will be absent from the city for several months.

We are glad to learn that a short course of lectures on Physiology and Hygiene will be delivered by Dr. Reed to the pupils of the McGill Normal School. We consider this a move in the right direction, and an example to be followed by every school.

Mr. Jack, who was appointed to the position of Resident Clinical Assistant to the Western Hospital, a few months ago, has been obliged to resign, owing to ill health, which was unequal to the strain of such a responsible position. Mr. Nichol has temporarily replaced him. In this connection we venture to suggest that the duties of the position are sufficiently onerous to require the undivided attention of a fully qualified graduate.