

My duty to the profession and to the public would not be done did I not refer to the miserable medical fees common to some districts of this country. Once a fee becomes established in a community it is hard to raise it. In certain districts in England the twopence and threepence fees still persisting are relics of Henry the Eighth's time. A banker, stating tersely the altered value of money, said that in 1860 \$20,000 would yield in interest \$2,500 annually. This sum would go as far as \$6,000 for living expenses to-day; \$120,000 would be the amount of principal required to earn \$6,000 to-day. In other words, \$20,000 in 1860 yielded a living for which \$120,000 would be required to-day, one dollar being equal to six nowadays: "The laborer on the street has been quicker to grasp the altered value of money than your profession," said the banker, "and what is more, he has had, as a rule, the courage to demand his right to substantial increased wage." Through a failure to carry on a campaign of education in favor of better medical fees, there has arisen a disproportion between medical and surgical fees which is largely responsible for fee splitting. One general practitioner gave an illustration in this way. He said he took Jenny B. to a surgeon for appendicular operation between attacks; the father paid the fee of one hundred dollars. Six months thereafter, he protested a bill of twenty dollars for attendance on his other daughter for a severe and prolonged attack of pneumonia. So long as there are miserable medical fees and this disproportion between medical and surgical ones, the fee splitting cannot be stamped out. There must be a good living wage for honest medical service, or members of our profession will fall into dishonest practices, and sink into the mire of dishonor itself. The righteous course for our profession to pursue is, while not distressing the deserving poor, to be careful not to put a premium on mere stinginess.

Medicine has made contribution to every calling in life. It is our high duty to go further. We must not continue the silence of centuries any longer. We must educate the public in the scientific principles of medicine far enough to give them ground to judge in their true light the sophistries of the quack and the charlatan. The osteopathist, Christian scientist and chiropractor succeed with even the supposedly educated and intelligent, because they teach the public their theories of disease and healing. To tell a patient that his bile has become thickened and that the grooming he is about to receive will make the bile more limpid, is an explanation not above his comprehension. What we must do is to educate the public till such an explanation will not be entertained. The greatest publicity should be given to the achievements of regular medicine