

to accord with the changed condition of our environment.

Apparently, if the profession is to present a united front to the world on this matter, a new statement must be made, satisfactory to the majority. All agree that the profession should be kept intelligent and clean, but all do not now unite upon a practicable method for attaining this end. Until such a method is devised and adopted with substantial unanimity, the drifting will continue; a drifting from a position incomprehensible by the laity towards one clear to every person; a drifting from a position calling for defence and explanation, towards a vantage ground commanding the entire field; a drifting from an indefinite standard towards a definite one; a drifting from a position affording no hope to those outside its circle, towards one giving hope to every intelligent, honest practitioner; a drifting from a position which loses the good work done by institutions other than its own, towards one in which it can absorb all good work, wherever done, and all good workers wherever trained; a drifting from a position of inflexible definition towards one of intelligent accord with forces animating the medical profession.

Urging on this drifting are very antagonistic elements. Physicians of the purest motives and highest character coöperate with those of selfish character and despicable motives. Promoting this drifting are State university medical schools, State medical examining boards, State and local boards of health, specialists, physicians; avaricious for fame, power or wealth, irrespective of the means by which they may attain their ends, and physicians jealous of professional honor and unselfishly serving humanity.

All these, however, are but instruments of far larger force, which form a part of the development of the medical profession as a portion of the nineteenth century civilization. Of these we note briefly the following: First—The intellectual atmosphere of the century has become softer, as seen in the diminishing asperity in religious, social, scientific, political and medical circles. Quite generally, we are learning that our opponents may be gentlemen, scholars, and valuable citizens, while vigorously opposing our individual beliefs and practices. Significant of the quality of this atmosphere was the meeting at Chicago of the

representatives of all religions, and their discussing, under one roof, each others religious tenets. This atmosphere of free thought and untrammelled practice has stimulated men to expand their energies, without diversion, in the investigation of new fields, or enriching old ones; to develop good rather than destroy evil; to prevent infection more than to cure the infected; to establish the conditions needful to produce level-headed physicians, rather than fight sectarian titles.

Second—With the advancing century humanity has acquired a larger faith in the ability of truth to look after its own interests, if only each individual did his own life-work in the most perfect manner. Hence, physicians have been disposed to give plenty of rope to the offenders against truth, in the belief that thus they will best dispose of themselves after the classical method of Judas Iscariot.

Third—The rapid incubation of physicians; by emigration of the products of the doctor factories of other countries, (an importation which pays no government duty), and by the swarms yearly graduating from the medical schools of the United States; has swelled our ranks to quite uncomfortable proportions. The situation is still farther aggravated by the fact that vast numbers of patients, which naturally should contribute to the support of physicians, are largely absorbed by hospitals, ambulances, dispensaries, contract physicians, railway physicians, accident insurance companies, medical college clinics, and numerous private institutions supported by shrewd advertising. This crowding compels each physician to cultivate his field to the fullest degree possible. He is compelled to know all about the sectarians as well as the physicians of his field. This close contact has proved that some sectarians are better educated, more gentlemanly and honorable than some regulars. This personal knowledge renders it possible for him to coöperate with the sectarians in the management of cases in which they have a mutual interest and profit. Except for the crowding, this knowledge would have been difficult of attainment. Now it leads him to believe that professional character and ability are of higher importance than a sectarian name, and so powerfully drifts him away from the written law of consultations.

Fourth—Experience has shown that the fighting of a name, as that of a sectarian, is unprofitable.