

saying flippantly that he has not been at church for months or years. If he has no religious convictions of his own; out of respect to the feelings of others, and for the good of his profession let him, at least, keep silent, on religious matters. The lives of a few score of medical men like that of Doctor McClure in "The Bonnie Briar Bush," would do more to restore mutual faith between religion and medicine, than volumes of sarcasm poured out on a Mary Baker Eddy, or any of her ilk. Scientific medicine cannot afford to ignore religious sentiment. It must recognize the legitimate claims of religion and meet them as best it can. The physician is the legitimate sovereign in medicine. Surgery and the specialties are only allies. The physician has no more right to abdicate his authority to the surgeon or specialist than the monarch has to hand over the reigns of government to one of his allies. The vacillating policy of the physician is a potent factor in creating mistrust in the lay mind—such conduct has only too often brought approbrium on medicine. Patients object to be summarily handed over to the surgeon or specialist, and so pass out into the hands of the religious-medical charlatan. Scientific medicine would be immensely strengthened in both professional and public opinion if a far more rigid censorship were placed on surgical operations. How often is a community shocked by a sudden death after an operation? This is sad enough when unavoidable but what a miserable reflection on medicine when it is reported around the community that there was really no necessity for an operation. Another sinister reflection is aroused in both lay and medical minds when the fact becomes known that a doctor with but a small practice drums up a far larger number of surgical cases than his neighbor, who is attending two or three times as many families in the same community. It holds just as true in medicine as in morals, that if the medical profession is to acquire, and hold the respect and confidence of the public, its members must shun every appearance of evil.

In conclusion, if the present attitude of antagonism against ethical medicine is to be put away it can only be done when the members of the medical profession come to realize the true mission of medicine, viz., that of service, and also to realize that religious sentiments are the strongest of all convictions, and to give these their full measure of respect and reverence. The religious factor must ever remain an important and very potent one in the practice of medicine. It is a question of vital importance to medicine whether it has the help or the antagonism of this factor. When medical aid is looked upon as a blessing worth having, the sick will resort early to the physician, and the full benefit of prophylactic measures, and early treatment will be realized. The physician's revenue would be increased, and patients saved from fraudulent extortions if all traces of antagonism between religious sentiment and ethical medicine could be removed.