

proof of its right to claim a place is the fact that the progress in the science and art of medicine is very largely due to the work which has been done in the medical society. Where else can papers be presented and discussed to better advantage? The medical journal is a great medium for the distribution of knowledge. But what physician, who has listened to the words and studied the play of emotions, as expressed in feature and gesture of some of our great medical teachers, would exchange that experience for a perusal of the same article in the quiet of the library, however interesting and instructive a careful reading might prove to be? Would the apostles have accomplished as much for Christianity if they had read the words of its Founder instead of hearing them from His lips? Was it not the impress of a personality that made these men invincible? What surgeon could listen to Lister without receiving an inspiration to do all his work more aseptically for all the days to come? Those of us who had the pleasure of hearing Osler's address at the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, in Montreal, treasure that occasion as one of the most inspiring of the reminiscences of life. To these two names each one of us could add many others of men to whom we have listened with the greatest pleasure and profit. But some may say that often they have neither been pleased nor edified by the manner in which papers or addresses have been given in the medical society. This suggests another feature that may be very briefly referred to, viz., that the medical society is a place for moral and social development.

High attainments in technical knowledge and skill may be grievously impaired if associated with irascible tempers and boorish manners, which ruthlessly lacerate those tender feelings that constitute the "woof and warp" of our sentiments. A medical society is a school in which anything incongruous in language or manner is likely to be rebuked and corrected. In what other place do sharp tricks, dishonorable intrigues, or petty jealousies seem so small and contemptible to us as when we are convened in a medical society? Here we meet in a quieter and serener atmosphere, where the heat and discomforts that arise from the friction and collisions of the everyday struggle for existence or pre-eminence are not felt, and where we can estimate more justly the work and worth of our fellows.

Time will not permit me to dwell any longer on this phase of my subject; but I wish, *en passant*, to refer briefly to those who are not members of any medical society. These men belong chiefly to one or another of three groups: The egotists, who are deluded by the belief that they are the incarnation of all knowledge, and, therefore, cannot be taught anything