

patients shall be treated by me to the best of my power and judgment, in the most salutary manner, without any injury or violence; neither will I be prevailed upon by another to administer pernicious physic, or be the author of such advice, nor will I recommend to women a pessary to produce abortion, but will live and practise chastely and religiously. Cutting for the stone I will not meddle with, but will leave it to the operators in that way. Whatever house I am sent for to, I will always make the patient's good my principal aim, avoiding, as much as possible, all voluntary injury and corruption, especially all venereal matters, whether among women or men, bond or free. And whatever I see or hear, in the course of a case or otherwise, relating to the private affairs of life, nobody shall ever know it if it ought to remain a secret. May I be prosperous in life and business, and forever honoured and esteemed by all men, as I observe and not confound this solemn oath; and may the reverse of all this be my portion if I violate it and forswear myself."

Dr. Alfred Sheen, in his paper, "Relations of the Medical Profession," says:—Not a very long time ago a friend of mine consulted a celebrated physician, who, in the course of investigating his case, told him that he (the physician) had the largest practice in the world; something like the *Daily Telegraph*, with its well-known advertisement, "the largest circulation in the world!" "A single purpose, high views, robust self-respect," will save us from falling into many objectionable peculiarities of character, peculiarities at which shrewd and sensible people only smile. Mr. Tom Hughes offers some sensible advice to medical men. He says, "Learn to read character by studying your own, to speak plainly, to practise reticence, and to avoid mercenary habits." Again—

"To thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Our first and chief duty to a patient, when he comes before us, I conceive to be this: honestly and thoroughly investigate his case, with the sole view of relieving him to the best of our

ability; and if, during the progress of the case, we are not quite sure of our own resources, to seek, in consultation, the aid of a colleague in whom we have confidence.

The *Lyon Medical* tells the story of a priest who was appealed to by a woman, for advice respecting the propriety of her taking a mixture of cubebs and copaiba, which a doctor had prescribed for her gonorrhœa. The priest examined the prescription and exclaimed: "Balsamics, those are used for the chest. Yours is weak. You can take them." And being of a generous nature, he wrote across the prescription: "Furnish at my personal expense." At the drug store where this prescription was filled there is still a sly smile to be noticed as this prescription is inspected.—*Detroit Lancet*.

The *College and Clinic Record* gives three reasons why all doctors should take an active part in some medical society. "The proper use of medical societies keeps one polished and out of ruts. Membership should be had in medical societies for the aid it gives one's self." "The profession, as a profession, needs the help of the humblest of its members. A meeting and comparing of ideas, a friendly criticism and seeking for the reasons of things, all help to strengthen the individual powers of each." "The fact is to be emphasized that every physician owes it to himself, his patients, and the public, to be actively engaged in the sessions of at least one medical society."—*Detroit Lancet*.

THE MARCH OF DEATH.—Dr. Farr once said that if he could watch the march of one million people through life, the following would be observable:—Nearly 150,000 would die the first year, 53,000 the second year, 28,000 the third year, and less than 4,000 in the thirteenth year. At the end of forty-five years 500,000 would have died, at the end of sixty years 370,000 would still be living; at the end of eighty years, 97,000; at eighty-five years, 31,000; and at ninety-five years there would be 223; at the end of 108 years there would be one survivor.—*Medical Review*.