

practitioner and surgeon in a case should be the relative value of services rendered. The present custom, in cases requiring surgical operation for their relief, tends unduly to exalt the mechanical or technical phase of the operative procedure, and to minimize the importance of the preliminary investigation, the diagnosis and the after treatment. This is certainly not in the interests of either medical or surgical progress. The properly trained practitioner or physician to whom the patient first applies for relief should be the one most competent by training as well as circumstances to direct the latter aspects of the procedure, recalling the surgeon for consultation if in his judgment the interests of the patient require it.

Under such a plan it could be arranged to have the fee charged in a given case cover the whole procedure of preliminary investigation, diagnosis, operation and after treatment, and the remuneration of practitioner and surgeon determined by a previously considered and established value attached to each part of such a procedure. Under all circumstances the interests of the patient should be considered of first importance; there should be no secrecy, and the relative remuneration of each attendant should be determined by the services actually rendered and in accordance with a generally accepted rule. I suggest this merely as a possible equitable and ethical basis of adjustment in keeping with the interests of the patient, and fair alike to medical and surgical attendants.

In reviewing the present condition of medical affairs one cannot overlook the nursing problem, which is one of increasing difficulty, especially in private practice. Training schools for nurses connected with hospitals throughout the province have accomplished admirable results in raising the standard of training and supplying highly qualified professional nurses.

One must regret, however, a tendency, especially among recent graduates, to limit their professional work to hospital or other selected practice, where the work is easier, rather than to answer the call of duty wherever it may be. This is not in keeping either with professional ideals or a correct sense of duty, and if continued will assuredly tend to lessen the usefulness of the nursing profession and lower it in the public esteem. It is a custom which should be discouraged alike by hospitals, training schools and the profession at large. I would suggest a lower scale of fees for those who will undertake only selected work, as a practical means of remedying the difficulty.