

the strictest caution and reserve ; should give no disingenuous hints relative to the nature and treatment of the patient's disorder, nor should the course of conduct of the physician, directly or indirectly, tend to diminish the trust reposed in the attending physician. The same care should be observed when, from motives of business or friendship, a physician is prompted to visit a person who is under the direction of another physician. Indeed, such visits should be avoided, except under peculiar circumstances ; and when they are made no discussion of the nature of the disease, or the remedies employed, should take place.

19. DUTY AS TO CALLS ON PATIENTS OF OTHER PHYSICIANS.

A physician ought not to take charge of, or prescribe for, a patient who has recently been under the care of another physician, in the same illness, except in case of sudden emergency, or in consultation with the physician previously in attendance, or when that physician has relinquished the case or has been dismissed in proper form. The physician acting in conformity with this rule should not make damaging insinuations regarding the practice adopted, and, indeed, should justify it if consistent with truth and probity ; for it often happens that patients become dissatisfied when they are not at once relieved, and, as many diseases are naturally protracted, the seeming want of success, in the first stage of treatment, affords no evidence of a lack of professional knowledge or skill.