

medicine and often in spite of medicine; that many diseases have many symptoms in common; that it is only after patient waiting and watching that they can be differentiated; and that in many cases a diagnosis can be made only in retrospect. They should know that after all nature is the great healer and that our business is to assist her in her beneficent designs; to study the patient rather than the disease—to learn his peculiarities—to adapt our treatment to the conditions as they arise—to relieve pain—to cheer and encourage our patient and thus help him over a crisis; or, failing to do this as fail we often must, to smooth his dying pillow and show by our sympathy that if we cannot always save we can sometimes administer comfort.

II.

REMEDIES.

What are some of the remedies for this condition of things that we have been so far considering?

1. DO OUR DUTY TO OUR PATIENTS.

The first and paramount duty of the physician is to his patient. Everything else should be secondary and subordinate. All our time if need be is his. Nothing short of the very best we can do will suffice. When the unfortunate victims of disease and suffering appeal to us for help they expect us to do our utmost on their behalf; and the physician who suffers considerations of personal comforts or pecuniary advantage to interfere with this sacred duty is not worthy of his high calling.

It is to be feared that too many of us transgress the tenets of our profession by a too solicitous regard for our own comforts and even for our own personal dignity. Dignity is a commendable ornament to carry around with us when we can do so without detriment to the interests of our patients, but when life and death are at stake, dignity to the dogs!

When duty calls, no consideration, social, personal or pecuniary, should stand in the way. To do good and practice charity is the gospel of the medical man.

2. MAINTAIN THE HONOR OF THE PROFESSION.

Ours is a noble profession, and if we would merit the respect of the lay public we must respect ourselves. To this end it is not enough that we comport ourselves in such a manner as to be above reproach. We must qualify ourselves for the great responsibilities that rest upon us as a profession. We must maintain the highest standard of professional education consistent with our opportunities and limitations. We must be scientific physicians as well as moral men. We must discountenance quackery in our ranks as well as out of our ranks. There are many