

or aught else, comes an inalienable responsibility. We can no more get rid of it than of our being. The medical profession has, by virtue of special knowledge, a peculiar responsibility to their fellows both as a profession and as individuals. There are great evils at the very roots of human progress, understood adequately only by medical men, not to speak of their special knowledge of hygiene, by which they are eminently qualified to warn and direct the public. And unless the medical profession soon speaks out on some of these topics in language that cannot be misunderstood, surely the very stones will cry out!

We have all sorts of combinations in these days in the supposed interests of special classes. But who has yet heard of a meeting of capitalists with the direct object of devising means to alleviate the condition of their less fortunate fellow-creatures? Where or when have scientists or physicians met to decide upon plans of spreading the rays of a wholesome knowledge in noisome places? We may boast of our civilization as we will, but so long as there are, on the one hand, gross ignorance of essential truths by vast masses of mankind, squalor, poverty and all forms of degradation in our very midst; and on the other, massive fortunes, great ability, scientific knowledge and skill, all utilized for the benefit of the possessors only, all being perfectly content that things should so remain; and so far as the one side is concerned should increase, it seems to me that we have yet to learn the very elements of a high civilization. There may be those who can understand how a physician who does no more than go the rounds of his practice discharges his whole duty to his fellows. But on purely scientific grounds, if no other, I am unable to see how any man can be true to the potential nobility and greatness of his nature who allows himself to become and remain a mere diagnosing, prescription-writing mechanism, or a neuro-muscular mass co-ordinated to manipulate a scalpel or a saw! To be this only means the atrophy of the best part of man's nature.

If these doctrines seem new it is because they are so old. They are opposed neither to nature, nor science, nor the teachings of the great Nazarene. We pay unbounded homage to intellectual ability in our age. But though we admire the fox