

at first you may find the task rather irksome, but presently it will grow into a confirmed and not unpleasing habit. The importance of this proceeding to yourselves, and to those under your charge, can scarcely be exaggerated. As a mental exercise, the necessity of accurately and decisively expressing what you observe from day to day, will enable you to form far more clearly defined opinions of the nature and progress of a difficult case, than if you should trust merely to memory, and having the facts always ready for reference, may obviate the necessity for repeating questions formerly answered, and save you from the imputation of carelessness or forgetfulness. The value of such notes in legal enquiries which may arise, the satisfaction of being able at any time to refer to former details of treatment, or to give precise information as to other matters connected with past illness, and the scientific value of such records are obvious enough, and besides the possession of a trustworthy health record of the families you attend, becomes often of great practical value in subsequent illness by reminding you of important circumstances which else would have been overlooked or forgotten. It is I trust unnecessary to caution you to refrain from conduct which may injure the honour and dignity of the profession you represent, to abstain from newspaper advertising in the shape of puffing notices of wonderful operations and miraculous cures, and to strongly discountenance the well meaning, but indiscreet efforts which your friends may sometimes exert in your favour to induce patients to change their physician.

Speaking to gentlemen, it is also unnecessary to enter into detail on the subject of what your conduct should be to your patients. Self interest, if no higher motive should induce you to avoid whatever might sully your good name, or injure you in the confidence of those whose lives and honour are entrusted to you—strive to preserve within you that—

“Peace above all earthly dignities,
A still and quiet conscience.”

In your intercourse with the sick you must of course expect much that is annoying, much that is unjust and unreasonable, which you must nevertheless bear with philosophic Christian equanimity, content to know that you are doing your duty faithfully. It is I believe a very common opinion that the doctor has but little feeling for or sympathy with suffering. That there is nothing either in the nature of our studies, or in the practice of our profession to warrant such an assertion, I need hardly say. That familiarity with sudden and frightful accidents, with disease and misery of all kinds, enables us to view such scenes with calmness and self possession, is very true and very necessary also. Dr. S.