

apprehension of its insignificance, nor in a society such as yours should any member dread the severe criticism of his fellows, for the larger the experience and the more solid the knowledge of any practitioner of the healing art, the greater always must be his conviction of his own ignorance and short-comings, and the stronger his desire for increase of knowledge of his own defects. The true philosopher never sneers at the blunders of unostentatious ignorance, though he may look with pity on the egotistic displays of pedantic science, or the ill-starred flights of soaring self-conceit.

That Hercules of mental philosophers, Sir William Hamilton, "whose writings at once exalt and humble the reader," assures us that "the highest reach of human science is the scientific recognition of human ignorance" "*Qui nescet ignorare, ignorat scire.*" It is a never failing fact that the man who most thoroughly and truly measures his own ignorance, is ever the most lenient censor of the faults of others. That charity which never faileth, and which is never puffed up, nor becometh itself unseemly, but beareth, and believeth, and hopeth, and endureth all things, is never the predominant virtue of the uncalled mind, nor the unfailing admonitor of the man of lofty self-conceit.

"From the faults of others, wise men convert their own." This is the wisest purpose to which we can apply the discovery of our neighbour's errors, and certainly it is not the least honorable. But as the cheapest of all virtues is the confession of other people's sins, and the most irksome duty is the acknowledgment of our own misdeeds, it is hardly to be wondered that so few become voluntary contributors to the general fund of knowledge, by frank avowal of their own blunders. And yet no nobler or more valuable service could they render to their fellow men.

I have often been tempted towards the belief that in our Profession, the free exposition of our failures would benefit humanity, and advance medical science very much more than the proclamation of our successes. Indeed, I almost think that the institution of a fund for the reward of writers whose illustrations of treatment should be equally constituted of both sorts of facts, would be a good and patriotic measure.

We are all pretty familiar with the fact, that the bulk of our periodical literature presented in a multitude of medical journals of various hues of merit, is furnished by junior members of the Profession, who not only have the requisite leisure for such work, but are also gifted with that furious impulse for distinction in print which has ever been the most prolific source of all sorts of bookmaking. While it almost invariably comes to pass, that these men chronicle as little of the more useful class of arts and so much of the other sort, might puzzle us did we not know that candor