

drawing room with scores of literary people who can discuss novels or give readings with far more effeminate grace and elegance than the busy practitioner can, whilst the plainer attire of the physician's wife and daughters is simply submerged under the lustrous jewels and rustling silks of the wives and daughters of these commercial "kings of finance." The latter occupy all the space in the social columns of our daily papers. And not alone in his literary and financial status has the doctor's decline been noticeable, for has not the social distinction that went with his title for centuries faded away since the abbreviation "Dr." is emblazoned on the door plates of a score of diverse crafts? The social rating of the doctor, or more accurately, of the feminine portion of his household is on a par with the average church member of good standing.

The medical pessimist may look upon his literary, financial and social status with gloomy forebodings, and justly so, if these elements were the main factors in a doctor's life. There is another picture to present in which the great mission of the physician's life is portrayed. In the same decades in which the above mentioned changes were taking place there were accomplished many of the greatest achievements to be found in the whole history of medicine. Turn back the pages of its history and see the fearful ravages on human life made by plagues, the helpless, hopeless condition of the physically deformed, and the intensity of suffering for which there were no means of alleviation. Compare all this with present conditions and see—in the prevention of disease, in the abbreviation of its course, in the removal of deformities and in the mitigation of suffering—achievements which, in greatness of results and in beneficence of character, far overshadow any achievements that have been won in literary, commercial or social life. What wots the old hero, of his torn garments, scarred features, or maimed limbs, when he has held the fortress or "scaled victory's heights?" or why the physician bemoan the loss of some literary frills, the want of riches or social distinction, when he, too, can achieve the most splendid victories over disease—one of man's greatest enemies. He has this consolation, also, that the public ask no questions about the examination marks, amount of wealth or social distinction obtained by a Lister, a Virchow, a Koch or an Osler, nor will they ask about his status in these fields if he imitate the example of such men as these.

PROFESSIONAL STATUS.

Whatever the physician may, in regard to his status as compared with that of a member of any other calling, it should be a matter of vital importance to him to stand high in the estimation of the members