

3. SECRECY TO BE INVIOULATE.

The obligation of secrecy extends beyond the period of professional services. None of the privacies of individual or domestic life, no infirmity of disposition or flaw of character observed during medical attendance, should ever be divulged by a physician, except when he is imperatively required to do so by the law of his country.

4. FREQUENCY OF VISITS.

Frequent visits to the sick are often requisite, since they enable the physician to arrive at a more perfect knowledge of the disease, and to meet promptly every change which may occur. Unnecessary visits are to be avoided, as they give rise to undue anxiety to the patient; but to secure the patient against irritating suspense and disappointment the regular visits of the physician should be made as nearly as possible at the hour when they may be reasonably expected by the patient.

5. HONESTY AND WISDOM IN PROGNOSIS.

A physician should not be forward to make a gloomy prognosis, but should not fail, on proper occasions, to give timely notice of dangerous manifestations to the friends of the patient if absolutely necessary. This notice, however, is at times so peculiarly alarming when given by the physician that its deliverance may often be preferably assigned to another person of good judgment.