

To mention it is to condemn it. It is a frankly dishonest transaction which stamps as a fraud the practitioner who demands his pound of flesh. It destroys all possibility of the patient obtaining an honest opinion from his attendant if that attendant is to share in the fee of the operator to whom the patient is referred by his attendant. Timothy was assured by St. Paul that the love of money was the root of all kinds of evil. This is one of the evils which not only injures the parties to the transaction, but commercializes the profession and gives sure and certain ground for distrust on the part of the public.

It is to the interest of this Academy to "wage a relentless war of extermination upon this degrading and dishonest practice, so fatal to professional honour and integrity".

I am credibly informed that men in this city have endeavoured to solicit the operative work of practitioners upon the frankly stated basis of a fifty-fifty division of the fee, and I have personally been solicited by a general practitioner to state what percentage he might expect to receive upon referred cases. The physician who sells his soul of honour for a paltry fee, and the would-be surgeon who builds up his experience upon cases referred upon a financial basis of share and share, are equally abhorrent, and with your help we will drive them from our midst.

This naturally introduces the subject of the training of the surgeon. Surgery has been well defined as "a science founded upon certain fundamental principles, without a thorough knowledge and understanding of which, no man can do himself or his patient justice". As Dr. Finney has said:

"No doctor, no matter who, without a thorough surgical training, has the moral right to attempt to make a practice of surgery. He may succeed in doing certain minor operations or even certain major operations, well; he may learn to do mechanically certain things satisfactorily to his patient and to himself, and he may have a fair percentage of success; but, sooner or later he will meet his limitations, and in attempting to go beyond these, with his small and imperfect equipment, some of the catastrophes of surgery will happen, and then who pays the price of his temerity and ignorance? Yes, let me repeat, surgery is far too serious a matter to be lightly undertaken by those who are not thoroughly trained in the fundamental principles underlying its proper performance."

It is not necessary to leave this city to see in well equipped operating rooms, heinous crimes committed against the most