

to give satisfactory results. I am also particularly in favor of combining repair of the perineum with any operation for displacement of the uterus.

THE PROFESSION, THE PUBLIC AND THE CODE.

An address delivered by invitation before the Third General Meeting of the Pan-American Medical Congress, Washington, Sept. 7, 1893, by ERNEST HART, D.C.L., Hon. Causa, Editor of the British Medical Journal, London, formerly Dean and Ophthalmic Surgeon, St. Mary's Hospital, London.

Sir Astley Cooper, one of the greatest surgeons and most accomplished gentlemen of the last generation, was in the habit of addressing every candidate for membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, of which he was president, somewhat in the following words: "Gentlemen, you are about to enter on a noble and difficult profession; your success in it depends on three things: first, on a good and thorough knowledge of your profession; second, on an industrious discharge of its duties, and third, on the preservation of your moral character. Without the first,—knowledge,—no one can wish you to succeed; without the second,—industry,—you cannot succeed; and without the third, even if you do succeed, success can bring you no happiness." Those words might form a very adequate summary text for guidance of the conduct of all medical men. And it might conceivably be asked whether there is any necessity for a more detailed and elaborate code. Indeed, it practically has been asked, and there are large questions involved in the decision. On the other hand, it has, from time to time, lately, in our country been found necessary to reinforce and strengthen our code by additional declarations, and I think to some extent in yours; the need for a stringent upholding and development of the code has also become a question of the day. I think it is clear that if ever there were such necessity, at no time could it be stronger than at the present moment. For under the stress of the modern social development, under pressure of the modern temptation for advertising and the severity

of competition, in view of the arts of those who make advertisement a business and a profit; in presence of the temptations held out to draw medical men from the ancient paths of modesty and self-effacement, there is now stronger reason than ever to fortify ourselves against those growing and innumerable seductions by a code so exact, so far reaching, that the physician need never be in doubt as to what is his duty in any complication, or in the face of any doubtful case in which he may be inclined to give himself the benefit of the doubt.

But, first of all, I want to elaborate the view that our rules of medical etiquette stand upon a logical and strong basis, and that their strict enforcement is for the benefit of the public, at least as much, if not even more, than for the benefit of the profession. Medical etiquette has been sneered at by shallow cynicism as mere trades unionism. It is, on the contrary, a self-denying code which is made in the interests of pure morality, and for the benefit of the public far more than for the interests of the profession. This allegation of trades unionism is the converse of that of inutility, which those who are prone to call themselves of the younger school allege; but not even the youngest of us, as you know, are infallible, and in this matter it is the youngest who are most likely to go wrong. They proclaim themselves liberals. Is it, however, in some cases, the liberalism of Gallio? Let us look at this matter from the largest and most liberal standpoint. Let us begin by comparing our code with the standards of the legal profession.

My distinguished friend, Sir Edward Clark, lately the Solicitor General of England, in writing to me on the subject recently, said the essence of the matter might be summed up in a very few words: "Every lawyer ought to be a gentleman, and ought to do only what is right and honest; if he does not, other men ought to have nothing to do with him." Notice that "if he does not, other men should have nothing to do with him." That position of the bar is strengthened by this, that the etiquette of the bar is absolutely in the hands of the bar circuits and attorney general, and that of the solicitors in the hands of the Incorporated Law Society, so that any solicitor who is guilty of an offence, whether as a lawyer or as a gentleman, can be, and