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THE RELATION OF THE PHYSICIAN TO HIS PREGNANT PATIENT.*

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In his address on "The Future of the Medical Profession," delivered at the opening of the new buildings of the Harvard Medical School, President Eliot enlarges upon a subject which, if not new, has as yet failed to receive that attention from the profession at large which its importance demands.

"The ordinary physician," he says, "has for the last hundred years been almost exclusively a man devoted to the treatment of disease already developed in human bodies or of injuries already incurred." In the future his function will include not only these, but, entering a broader field, from his analysis of all the processes which accompany disease, and knowing their actual sequence, the physician will apply more and more largely the remedy—prevention.

It is a sad commentary on the art and science of Obstetrics that, while its literature deals so fully with the cure of existing disease and teaches with exactness the technique of operative procedures, it gives but scant consideration to the prophylaxis of, to a large extent, preventable disorders. That this is not the fault of investigators along these lines is evidenced by the voluminous writings on laboratory and bedside observations with which our journals are replete.

We are becoming fairly familiar with the processes accompanying the disorders incident to the child-bearing act, and

* Read before the Sixth Councillor District Medical Society, Flint, Michigan, November 7th, 1906.