

duty of the second to attend when called upon; but if people request us in the absence of their regular attendant to treat them, we should walk warily lest we encroach on another's rights. We have no more cause to interfere with another practitioner's patients without his knowledge or consent than we have to meddle with their private property; and it is our duty to endeavour to educate the public to the fact that physicians have rights which must be respected, both in their relations to each other, and to their patients.

Another source of misunderstanding among ourselves, and between the profession and the laity, is our scale of fees. I know of instances in which the minimum fee is not asked; especially is this so in obstetric cases, and where another charges according to our scale of fees he is looked upon as an extortioner.

When approached by the laity in regard to our fee for an operation for a case of confinement, it would be well to state both minimum and maximum fees—explaining that it depended upon the time occupied and the amount of work involved.

Take an example: we are approached and asked, it may be, what do we charge for attending a case of confinement. Probably we may answer, "eight dollars" or "ten dollars"; whatever our usual fee in uncomplicated cases is. Perhaps another physician had attended a case for that individual, which involved a wait of eighteen to twenty-four hours, instrumental delivery, and stitching a torn perineum or cervix, and charged for these services twenty-five dollars. Our answer would give the questioner the impression that he had been overcharged. Whereas, if we said our charge was from eight to thirty dollars he would have no reason to be disappointed with his attending physician's rates. I do not know of anything that cheapens our profession like reducing our rates in the spirit of opposition like so many second-hand dealers. Societies and insurance companies seem to have us at their mercy. Just think of making a physical examination, and testing for albumin and sugar in the urine, for three dollars. It is pretty much in medicine as in everything else; we must keep our rates up to a certain standard if we are to do ourselves and our patients justice.

Another drawback to our profession is the lack of social principles, and our inclination to consider our individual interests, regardless of detriment to the profession at large. Such tendencies are best overcome by habits of association and mutual intercourse, which scientific