

THE FUNCTIONS OF A MEDICAL SOCIETY.—In a short presidential address to the Glasgow Southern Medical Society, Dr. James Allan summarises its functions as the cultivation of good will and the advancement of science. Neither is secured unless meetings be well attended. Both are furthered if all classes contribute—the hospital staff by accurate records, the general practitioner by striking instances less elaborated. He suggests a collective investigation of the use of some drugs, and that the visiting of public works would further the knowledge we should have of a patient's life and employment. He closes with the sensible statement that “the public will respect and have faith in the profession as much in proportion as it sees the members of the profession respecting and reposing faith in each other.”—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

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A SIGN OF CARDIAC FAILURE.—Henry Jackson, of Boston, calls attention to one of the signs of cardiac failure which is of great import, though it meets but little notice in the articles upon this condition, namely, a discrepancy between the rate of the arterial pulse and the rate of the heart-beats. He has observed in many instances that in cases of extreme cardiac weakness the pulse was very slow, intermittent, and irregular, while the heart was rapid, and refers not to cases in which it is extremely difficult to count the pulse, as is always the case when the pulse is irregular, especially when the rhythm of the pulse is irregular, but to cases in which the most accurate taking of the pulse by trained individuals does not show a rapid pulse-rate, yet examination of the heart shows that its action is extremely rapid.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

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THE USE OF SULPHATE OF SODIUM AS A HEMOSTATIC.—In the *Revue Médicale de la Suisse Romande* of January 20th, 1897, Reverdin contributes an interesting article upon this subject, experimental and otherwise, and concludes that small doses of sulphate of sodium (two grains every hour) are of great value in certain cases of capillary hemorrhage for the purpose of arresting the flow of blood. He has also found this method of treatment of value for the control of graver hemorrhages. His experiments upon animals seem to show, however, that the remedy is only of value if given by the stomach or injected into the veins. Under these circumstances it distinctly increases the coagulability of the blood. On the other hand, it is a noteworthy fact that its administration subcutaneously does not produce the same result.—*University Medical Magazine.*