

Perhaps enough will have been said to show that the medical and surgical profession is really in an anomalous and untenable position today. Its members seek to exist by their private and individual services to individuals, as the barrister or solicitor does. But the profession of healing has another function to which that of the law offers no parallel. It has a branch of science in its keeping; and the time has very nearly if not wholly passed when a practitioner, such as was Joseph Lister, can, simultaneously with the practice of his profession, institute biological experiments, which transform one of the major facts of human life. The public and the philanthropic and the state must learn that the time has come when competent men must be supported in decency and certainty whilst they discover the natural facts and laws upon which the future progress of medicine and surgery depends.

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