

DUTIES OF THE PROFESSION TO THE PUBLIC.

Medical men should be ready, when called upon, to enlighten coroner's inquests and courts of justice on subjects strictly medical, in regard to the various subjects embraced in the science of medical jurisprudence, but they should insist upon a proper honorarium being paid them. It is the duty of physicians to enlighten the public on the question of quack medicines, and to expose the injuries sustained by the unwary from the devices and pretensions of artful imperics and imposters.

It is desirable to render bills at regular intervals, say every three months, or bi-annually, and in cities it is customary, with many physicians, to render their bills monthly. For the doctor's proverbial delay or neglect in the matter is often attributed to a wrongful motive, and may, indeed, not unfairly be regarded as an incentive to the feeling so forcibly depicted in these quaintly truthful lines :

" God and the doctor were alike adored,
When on the brink of danger, not before,
The danger past, both are alike requited,
God is forgotten, and the doctor slighted."

Intra professional etiquette, or the rule of the profession on commencing practice.

In the absence of any published rule, it is not to be wondered at that young practitioners should be so generally ignorant of the unwritten custom or etiquette—diverse as it is from that pursued in ordinary social life—expected from members of the profession commencing or changing the locality of practice in town or country, and which entails on each new-comer, young or old, an obligation to call, with as little delay as may be, upon every duly qualified legitimate practitioner resident within a reasonable distance of his own selected place of abode, and courteously announce his attention to practice in the locality. In large cities it is obviously impossible for a practitioner to call upon all, and it is not expected of him. A good rule here would be to call upon thirty or forty practitioners who are the nearest at hand.

The question is often asked, what is the professional etiquette? I would venture in reply to define it simply and literally as a conscientious, practical observance in the daily walk of professional life of the divine command, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them."

So much for the strictly ethical part of our subject. Now let us devote a few moments to the consideration of what makes for success.

It was said of the Napoleonic army that every private soldier bore the baton of a marshal in his knapsack; and it may be written, with equal truth, of the medical profession for the encouragement of those about to join its ranks, that to each practitioner its highest honors and its most distinguished positions are possible of achievement. But, though success is thus attainable by any candidate, if he use proper