

“ There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune ;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.”

but rather that there is an ever-present opportunity who loudly advertises that—

“ They do me wrong who say I come no more
When once I knock and fail to find you in,
For every day I stand outside your door
And bid you wake and rise and fight and win.”

The prospects of medicine are brilliant. This wonderful century, with its tremendous forward strides, is but the borderland of the boundless field of medical endeavor—but the title page of the mighty book of medical knowledge, whose pages posterity will turn one by one, and whose teachings will not only illumine the dark spots in the medical work of the day, but furnish material in vast amounts for the greater periodicals, and even for the most highly technical publications. The professional teacher, the original investigator, the aspiring specialist, the earnest practitioner will as before abound in thoughts appropriate for expression in current journalism.

It has been said that man is a talking animal, and if that be true the physician is a reading animal. And this is essential. For his education is never complete. Before half a score years have followed the period of his pupilage in lecture-room, clinic and laboratory, the face of his science is so transformed by the protean mutations of medicine that, without constant following of the progress of science, he would be impotent either to cope with his fellow-practitioners or to meet the demands of his clientele. The medical journal is the text-book of the practitioner, and this fact is the key to the most important function of the medical journalism of the future. To meet it, medical periodical literature must cast aside the opportunism which has so largely characterized it in the past, and become more of a creator of literature that shall be well-balanced and comprehensive.

The great general medical journals already in the field will continue to grow apace with their enormous editions and their broad fields, and judicious and intelligent management will hold them secure in the point of vantage which their precedence in establishment has insured for them.

But along with these, a continual outcrop of new general journals—weeklies, bi-weeklies, monthlies and semi-monthlies—will appear, a fortunate circumstance, for anything like monopoly of the journalistic field would savor too much of suppression to be for the good of the profession. A free course and a fair field