

which pertain to scientific knowledge or skill, and, as a rule, the relation between physician and patient becomes not purely professional, but involves friendship and even affection. Nor is it to be wondered at that the doctor is extremely sensitive respecting his professional relations and rival practitioners, for in no other calling are extrinsic means available for competition to the same extent, and the opportunities so great for ungenerous and unscrupulous advantages.

Apart entirely from the treatment of cases there are many responsibilities involved in the practice of medicine. The doctor knows the private character of his patients; their weaknesses, faults, vices and secrets cannot be concealed even if not confessed. There are duties connected with the expression of opinions, concerning the termination and nature of diseases, to the patient and friends. There are also obligations as to giving advice and aid in overcoming bad habits; the charitable gift of professional services to individuals and institutions; giving testimony in courts of law; communicating the nature of diseases to others than those immediately concerned; exposing irregular practitioners, patent medicines and all forms of quackery. Finally, there are responsibilities relating to the honor and purity of the profession, the promotion of medical knowledge, the protection of public health and the prevention of disease. These matters are of the very highest importance to physician and public alike.

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