

We boast of our advance in knowledge, but "knowledge is power, and power is not for personal advantage, or for private gain, but for social service, and for the public good."

Let us beware where we stand, lest we fall.

The very humblest man or woman who receives the license to practise medicine should know that by that act, the honour of the highest of the professions is committed to their charge; that whether they walk abroad or sit at home—they embody in their persons the dignity and moral responsibility attached thereto, and that they stand pledged as the Hippocratic oath has it, "that with purity and with holiness they will pass their lives and practise their Art."

What can we do, beyond individually setting the highest example we know how; frowning down all suggestions in thought or expression which savour of a lower standard; seeing to it that our new Fellows, as they are elected, receive instruction in the rules which govern our conduct, and requiring of those bodies which educate students of medicine, a definite course of teaching from such living exponents of our standards as one whom I see before me to-night.

Personally, I have always regretted that such matters form so unimportant a part of the medical curriculum at the universities, nor can I find that a graduation oath is demanded by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, or by any of the universities of this province, with the exception of Queen's, while that administered to the graduates of McGill is in Latin.

It may be asserted that an oath has little weight, but no Masonic initiate could forget the oath he takes—and its administration would, at least, serve to draw the attention of the attestant to the solemn character of the service upon which he enters, and there is no reason why every practitioner should not legally be compelled to keep a copy of the oath in a prominent place in his office as a perpetual reminder of his duty. The oath should be administered at graduation in no merely formal way, but with a solemnity befitting its nature.

The sin of the educated practitioner is, as a rule, one of ignorance, and as things are now conducted, there is little wonder that this ignorance exists.

An evil which has been very prevalent among the profession to the south, and which was a factor in the inception of the American College of Surgeons, has shown its Hydra head in Ontario and in Toronto. I refer to fee-splitting.