

case I became cognizant here only the other day. An eminent doctor in a capital city of the United States of America was called in, came and saw a patient severely ill, said he would return; when the family physician returned in the evening, he was told, "But you are not any longer in charge; Dr. so and so has charge of the case." He said, "But I don't understand; I was here this morning." "Well, it was the particular wish of ——— that the consulting physician whom you called in shall take charge, and you are not wanted." Exit family doctor.

Once more, our College of Physicians explicitly directs that the physician called in to consultation by a brother practitioner shall not express directly to the patient his individual views and the conclusions at which he arrives, but that whatever he has to say shall be said after consultation with the practitioner, and through his mouth; that he shall behave with the utmost courtesy and forbearance to such practitioner, to whom shall be left all explanations and statements of the conclusion resulting from the consultation. Were it otherwise, were consultants authorized to supersede or to snub the family doctor, the public client would be the first to suffer. For anything which creates ill-will or unnecessary friction between consultant and family practitioner tends to limit the range and frequency of consultations. Therefore, it is forbidden to the consultant called in subsequently to assume the sole charge of that patient, however he may be entreated to do so, or under whatever inducement. Were it otherwise, the attending or family physician could not call in a consultant without the fear being before his eyes of losing the charge of his patient. There would arise at once the temptation to limit and restrict consultations, and this would be an impediment in the way of ascertaining the best means of cure by consultation. The strict observance of such rules and of the whole code as to consultations may sometimes be something of a personal trial to the patient, something of a personal loss to the consultant; but it is a rule which is of infinite importance to the public welfare.

The maintenance of a high standard of professional honour,