

pertaining to the craft or profession is attained; (3) to resist aggression from outside sources. These advantages apply equally as well to medical societies as to any other form of society. The medical society or association gives each member of the profession an opportunity of meeting his fellow practitioner from throughout the length and breadth of the land. They hear the papers and debates on the various subjects of interest, medical and surgical, in which are detailed the failures and the triumphs over disease. A single paper or discussion may suggest to the mind of the hearer a train of thought leading up to untold benefit to himself and those under his care. It gives him renewed and increased enthusiasm without which we are unable to work successfully or comfortably. The minds of men are not all of the same cast, hence we find all the sides and shades of a question taken up and inspected critically in all their varying aspects. Failures as well as successes are recorded and discussed. The confession of mistakes and failures, while it requires a great deal of moral courage, is a means of imparting great information of a profitable character. The most brilliant and astute observers, the most successful practitioners, have all made mistakes and had dismal failures, the recital of which serves to encourage the more timid by showing that the leading men do not live and work on a higher plane than the ordinary observer, that these men have their perplexities and trials to overcome, all of which affords so much instruction and encouragement to those who are diffident and less courageous, pointing out that "genius consists (chiefly) in an infinite capacity for taking pains." Hints of a valuable character are frequently dropped in discussion, even from the most humble, which may take root and bear fruit in the minds of the most erudite.

The beneficial results of these meetings are not confined to science. The ethical and social side is quite as important. Medical men are inclined to live within themselves or within certain rings or circles to the exclusion of their neighbors. At the medical association all barriers are, or should be, broken down. The hatchet of professional strife should be laid aside and the brethren dwell together in peace and learn to know each other, to know that our confreres are not the professional cut-throats and free lances we had imagined, to know they belong to a profession whose members are united in the bonds of fellowship, laboring with enthusiasm at the greatest of all sciences, viz., the alleviation of human suffering and the conquering of disease.