

It is their province to enlighten the public in regard to quarantine regulations, the location, arrangement, and dietaries of hospitals, asylums, schools, prisons and similar institutions—in relation to the medical police of towns, as drainage, ventilation, etc.—and in regard to measures for the prevention of epidemic and contagious diseases; and when pestilence prevails, it is their duty to face the danger, and to continue their labors for the alleviation of the suffering, even at the jeopardy of their own lives.

2. Medical men should also be always ready, when called on by the legally constituted authorities, to enlighten coroners' inquests and courts of justice, on subjects strictly medical—such as involve questions relating to sanity, legitimacy, murder by poisons or other violent means, and in regard to various other questions embraced in the science of Medical Jurisprudence. But in these cases, and especially where they are required to make a post-mortem examination, it is just, in consequence of the time, labor and skill required, and the responsibility and risk they incur, that the public should award them a proper honorarium.

3. There is no profession by the members of which eleemosynary services are more liberally dispensed than the medical, but justice requires that some limits should be placed to the performance of such good offices. Poverty, professional brotherhood, and certain of the public duties referred to in the first section of this article, should always be recognized as presenting valid claims for gratuitous services; but neither societies for mutual benefit for the insurance of lives or for analogous purposes, nor any profession or occupation, can be admitted to possess such privilege. Nor can it be justly expected of physicians to furnish certificates of inability to serve on juries, to perform militia duty, or to testify to the state of health of persons wishing to insure their lives, obtain pensions, or the like, without a pecuniary acknowledgment. But to individuals in indigent circumstances such professional services should always be cheerfully and freely accorded.

4. It is the duty of physicians who

are frequent witnesses of the enormities committed by quackery, and the injury to health and even destruction of life caused by the use of quack medicines, to enlighten the public on these subjects, to expose the injuries sustained by the unwary from the devices and pretensions of artful empirics and impostors. Physicians ought to use all the influence which they may possess, as professors in colleges of pharmacy, and by exercising their option in regard to the shops to which their prescriptions shall be sent, to discourage druggists and apothecaries from vending quack or secret medicines, or from being in any way engaged in their manufacture and sale.—Ontario Medical Journal.

THE COMMUNICATION OF SYPHILIS A CRIME.

We hope that the bill now under consideration by the German Reichstag, making the communication of a venereal disease to others by one so affected a crime punishable with fine and imprisonment, will be passed, and, if so, it will be a long step in sanitary and sociological progress which other countries should follow. It will certainly seem strange to future generations that the health boards, medical societies and legislatures of the United States should show so much agitation over the isolation and prevention of tuberculosis, while in regard to syphilis, so much more communicable and so much more terrible and far-reaching in its results, the Scriptural injunction "let it not be once named among you" is obeyed with a literalness that can be explained only by the apostolic comment that it is "not convenient" so to do. Who would not rather live in daily contact with the consumptive than with the physically, to say nothing of morally, filthy syphilitic who under present conditions walks freely and unsuspected among his fellow-men, sowing disease broadcast? With his mouth full of contagious sores he goes from one public eating-house or drinking-place to another; and who can tell how many or how few are his victims. He carries suffering and wretchedness and death into his own household, and the family doctor dare