

Jealousies often manifest themselves among the senior members of the profession towards their less experienced brethren for no better reason than that they have the advantages which matured experience brings with it. Ripe experience is, perhaps, more valuable in our profession than in any other. The oldest of us are liable to come in contact with a phase of disease entirely novel, and so to learn something every day of great practical import to us. We would not, therefore, seek to undervalue practical experience in any branch of our profession. But we do think that, when young men are treated as though their opinion upon any question of medical practice was of no moment, and they are continually being reminded by their senior brethren of the fact that they are only children yet, and that, therefore, they ought not to be heard at all, professional jealousy has reached an offensive and very undesirable point. Besides, it is the most uncalled for manifestation of jealousy. A man of large experience in his profession, and who has utilized such experience to the utmost of his ability, has so vastly the advantage of the young man that he can well afford to be generous. He is never in danger of being supplanted so long as his vital energy is such that he can still devote himself to the vigorous pursuit of his profession. Even in his declining years, he is always regarded by the young man as a valued counsel in cases of emergency and doubt. It is much to be regretted, then, that, in not a few instances, the older members of the profession are disposed to behave as if they had never been young themselves, nor required the sympathy which young men always feel that they need so much. If young men could feel that the bond between them and their fathers in the profession was more like that existing between the natural parent and child, their pathway would be rendered much smoother, and their courage, often faltering, would be greatly increased and confirmed.

These jealousies, so common among medical men, always weaken the influence of the profession wherever they exist and in proportion to their extent. In the first place, public confidence must be greatly shaken as to our claims that our science is based upon philosophical principles. With many of the most intelligent portion of the community we stand no better at this moment than the veriest empiric in our midst. We are often met with the intimation that, while all professing to be guided by the same general principles, no two of us can agree upon any matter affecting medical diagnosis and treatment. Dr. A—, who has received his medical education altogether, or in part, in the old world, is inclined to look disparagingly upon Dr. B—, no matter what his abilities, because

he has not gone beyond the limits of his own native land to acquire his medical knowledge. He seems to act as if not only professional knowledge was to be acquired, but that any deficiency in brains that may perchance exist can also be made up by a trip to the Old Country and the addition of three or four significant letters to his name. Now, we do not desire to be understood as uttering one word depreciatory of the very great advantages at which young men of ability and industry are placed in the beginning of their career by enjoying the privilege of visiting the Old Country, attending one of the large hospitals, and coming in contact with the great minds of the age, as well as receiving their instructions. Such a privilege as this is confessedly most desirable in more ways than one; and he who is earnestly desirous of adding to his stock of information and of acquiring greater precision in any department of his profession, cannot, perhaps, attain his object more effectually in any other way than by visiting a large city like London or some of the large cities of the continent. But the experience of the past has confirmed us in this conviction, that if a man has ability, physical energy, and a determination to rise in his profession, he need not go beyond the limits of his own country. The almost unlimited and ever-increasing facilities placed at our disposal by the press of the present day, give us advantages not enjoyed by the profession in former times. So that now there is nothing new in the profession under the sun of which the industrious student may not possess himself almost as quickly and effectually as if he was on the very spot where the novel principle has been evolved or practice adopted. The time has passed when, in order to become acquainted with the views of the leading minds of the age in any country or upon any subject, it is absolutely necessary that we should see and hear them for ourselves. Surely no one will pretend to say that, apart from the gratification of seeing and hearing a man like Sir James Paget, the earnest student will be any better informed regarding the views of that eminent surgeon than he would be by reading his published works and carefully digesting them. So we might with equal propriety speak of every man of any considerable distinction. Not a solitary man of prominence in the profession in any of its departments has failed to present through the press his views upon his favourite subject in the most matured and carefully prepared form. So that often what men of distinction have written is much more to be relied on as the correct expression of their views than what they may have said at a hospital clinic. It is an unjust principle upon which to judge of professional attainments to