

Certainly. But viewed from the higher plane it must ever be incidental and subservient. Our mission is to heal. More than seven centuries ago, Maimonides, one of the greatest physicians of the Middle Ages, offered the following prayer: "May the love of my art actuate me at all times; may neither avarice, nor miserliness, nor the thirst for glory or a great reputation engage my mind; for, enemies of truth and philanthropy, they could easily deceive me and make me forgetful of my lofty aim of doing good to Thy children. Endow me with strength of heart and mind, so that both may be always ready to serve the rich and the poor, the good and the wicked, friend and enemy, and that I may never see in the patient anything else but a fellow-creature in pain." A better motto has never been formulated than the one of Esculapius Hippocrates and Aristotle—one that should ever influence the physician in the unselfishness of his chosen calling: "*Not for ourselves alone.*"—*St. Paul Medical Journal.*

Who Should be a Surgeon.

"Every slow and slovenly physician who never did any mechanical work in his life, whose hands are like an elephant's foot, whose joints are as stiff as a thirty-year-old cow's, considers himself a surgeon, competent to practice surgery. So it has kept on and to-day with modern, clean surgery and the wonderful result and the constant lessening in mortality, it is still worse.

"When it is known how large a number recover after operations, every tyro thinks he can do the same thing. He sees perhaps a surgeon operate from a distance, sees how quick and easy it is done, and thus forthwith he rushes in 'where angels fear to tread.' He does not see the years' practice and experience that were required, he does not notice a thousand and one details of an operation, he does not see all the preliminary preparations.

"In the first place he is a poor diagnostician; he will operate on cases that he should not operate upon, he will operate on them when they should not be. In cases that need operation, he hesitates, he trembles, and the 'golden moment has escaped.' Many men just out of college rush out to operate, and the more difficult the operation the more anxious they are to do it. They have seen operations from their seats and know a little anatomy, forthwith they are surgeons. Some old practitioners who have practiced a quarter of a century or more, hearing about the wonderful results and the great fees received by surgeons in the medical centres, forthwith buy a new edition of surgery, read up, and proceed to operate. Fortunately some of these, after they have killed a dozen people, see the error of their ways,