

Medical Board will cause them to stand aloof, taking no part, but willing to receive as one of their number, any member of the regular profession whom the Governors of the Hospital may deem worthy of filling the position. Unless this is done the Hospital authorities, will find that among that class which it is their interest to secure as friends, viz.: the young and rising members of the profession, they are fostering an opposition which before very long will become powerful, and that which by fair and judicious dealing might have been used as a powerful auxiliary to further the General Hospital cause, will be exerted in a directly opposite direction. All of course cannot receive Hospital appointments, but all are entitled to a fair field when competing for them.

#### MEDICAL ETHICS.

In the formation of Medical Associations, about the first act is the establishment of a Code of Ethics to regulate, among other things, the conduct of physicians towards each other. The necessity which exists for such a code is well appreciated, and they may be summed up in the golden rule of "*Doing unto others as we would be done by.*"

In this city, fortunately for the honor of our profession, physicians are careful of how they interfere with each other, and too much praise cannot be given them as a body for doing so, tending, as it certainly does, to elevate and maintain the dignity of our calling, while at the same time it encourages the confidence of the public.

In many places throughout the country, the reverse unfortunately often occurs, and the amount of confidence which the people of any one section place in their medical advisers may, with but few exceptions, be taken as a standard by which to judge the conduct of physicians towards each other. It is by no means unusual for country practitioners, being actuated by local jealousies, to allow themselves to act unfairly towards a confrere. All honorable men regret that this should be so, because from the want of confidence thus engendered they see their profession undervalued, and themselves placed on a level with quacks, and the latter often preferred because his fees are so much less. It often occurs that, while attending a patient, the practitioner finds that some meddling friend of the family has been belittling his services, and recommending them to send for Dr. So and So; the patient, without consulting his own attendant; does so, and Dr. So and So instead of refusing to take charge till the other is

dismissed, seems only too glad of the chance to injure a confrere, undertakes the case, states that the treatment was wrong and that it was well he was sent for. If called in consultation, instead of being careful not to utter remarks which might cause a want of confidence, takes advantage of the opportunity to display himself, suggests some non-important change, or finds fault with the treatment, thus making an impression adverse to the attendant, and paving the way for his dismissal. Owing to this, many country physicians will not meet their local brethren; they become isolated and cut off from mutual consultation, and as a result an unhealthy competition arises. Dr. A, to prevent Dr. B from getting a case, will charge a less fee, so that in the end the fees become lowered beyond a just figure, resulting in a resort to some other way to make that money, which should have been obtained by the legitimate practice of their profession. Science thus loses her votaries; the mind which should have been occupied with professional matters is exercised in other channels; practice becomes a mere routine amounting often to calomel and opium or hydrargyrum cum creta and Dover's powder.

The time will come, we hope, when practitioners who act thus will see the necessity of subverting all local jealousies and acting together for their mutual advantage, for unless each, while upholding his own dignity, will maintain that of his professional brethren, that confidence on the part of patients cannot be expected which it is desirable there should be. On the contrary there will be a distrust of all because those who should assist confidence, by undermining the reputation of their confreres, create a spirit of retaliation. The public not knowing whom to believe, thus look upon the practice of medicine as uncertain. Our licensing bodies, losing the support of public opinion, are unable to prevent quacks from practicing, or lessen the amount of magic and patent curealls. These lines are written with the hope that some good may arise therefrom; to induce reflection that all members of our profession may see that it is to their advantage to act honorably towards each other, for by no other way will any lasting benefit arise to the individual. Not only will the physician be more respected and his services valued, but he will find himself better off in a pecuniary sense, for it is better to have a fee at a just figure from one patient, than to take the same amount off two patients merely to run out a neighbor. We lose nothing by living honorably and letting others live.—*Com.*