

suddenly do that which you assured him you would not attempt. Veracity, so essential in all the relations of life, is invaluable in the several relations between patient and practitioner.

When visiting a patient always let it be known when you will repeat the visit. It will not only satisfy him but prevent all uncertainty and the usual anxious expectancy for the doctor's rap

Make it a study to bear well in mind all that is said and done at your respective visits so that your line of conduct may be sustained throughout the case.

Do not let your wife or anyone else know your professional secrets, or the private details of your cases even though they be not secrets. Nobody likes to have conveyed from house to house what they said in their delirium, or their weaknesses exposed.

Many people labor under the impression that practitioners who injudiciously allow their wives, for the benefit of fresh air, to occasionally accompany them in their professional rounds on driving from the house relate all that has transpired during the visit. Such, of course, is not the case. Nevertheless if people think so the discomforting thought is the same whether it be true or not. There is no end to the mortifications, compromises and estrangements into which a practitioner's wife may not lead him. Nothing is more vexatious and annoying to the feelings of sensitive patients than to hear that the details of their cases are being whispered about as coming from the practitioner or his wife, or others whom he or she had told. Be professionally reticent and never allude to the private affairs of anyone in making your visits.

*Medicine.* To believe too much in medicine and not to believe at all are both unfortunate mental conditions for those who practice medicine. Take care, therefore, that you do not over-estimate the importance of drugs. Bear in mind the example of the old dame in Paris who filled bottles with water from the Seine, sold it as a cure all, and heard of so many cures wrought by it on all sides that she died convinced that the polluted water of the river was a sure cure for all the ills of the human race. Guard yourself also against the opposite error, that medicines are useless and unnecessary.

Study to be fertile in expedients and never confess or allow the inference that you are hopelessly puzzled about a case, or have reached the limit of your resources. Never give up a patient in acute disease unless the process of dissolution has, de facto, begun. "He is most free from danger who, even when safe, is on his guard."

Fothergill says, "The successful man is the man who knows human nature as well as his profession." Self-reliance and self-possession are very important elements of success. Nothing will cause people to rely on you more readily and steadfastly than to see that you rely on yourself. Be not arrogant or self-conceited but always endeavor to conceal your doubts, hesitations and apprehensions as effectually as possible.

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