

Mr. Mitchell Banks tells us that a few years ago the Marquis of Salisbury went down to Oxford to plead for the Radcliffe Infirmary and said : "I believe that if you respond munificently to the appeal that is made to you, you will do something more than place this Infirmary in a position of which it need not be ashamed ; you will be taking a long step towards introducing more closely the cultivation of one of the greatest of the sciences—the science of medicine—in this ancient university. I always think that science has scarcely received among us all the tribute it ought to receive among the sciences which rest upon observation. It is the most sober, the most absolute, the most positive among all the sciences. Again, there is no other science—which is but another name for a work of mercy—there is no other science that is so closely linked with the relief of human suffering as a remedy for human calamity in its most overwhelming form."

This, coming from a man who in his younger days was distinguished as a scientist, who in latter years kept himself fully in touch with every advancement in science, whose chief relaxation to-day is working in his chemical laboratory, is a magnificent tribute to our profession. Tell your parson, tell your lawyer, tell your funny friend when he gets off that old joke about doctors differing, that one of the most distinguished statesmen, who is at the same time one of the greatest scientists of the world, says positively that the science of medicine "is the most sober, the most absolute, the most positive among all the sciences."

The modern novelist delights to describe the doctor as Fildes has painted him. We all love such noble specimens of our order as George Ohnet's *Le Docteur Rameau* and Ian Maclaren's *Doctor MacLure*. I need go no further in this direction as I have given sufficient evidence to prove that where the doctor was despised two hundred years ago, he is respected and honored to-day.

If it be admitted that the public are, as a rule, well disposed to our profession, it may be well to consider what return we make to this same public for their kindly consideration. I will refer very briefly to this aspect of the question ; but I may say that we try to replace the gross quackery and charlatanism of past ages by careful methods of investigation and general honesty of purpose. We are earnestly trying to place medicine on a scientific basis. We are endeavoring to do our duty both to our patients and the general public. We are not all heroes ; but, as far as my experience and observation have served me, I have known very few physicians who have not done some kindly and generous acts in their professional career, and I have known many who have done numerous, generous and noble acts in a very quiet and unostentatious way. In fact, some