

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 has 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 good souls appear to form a habit of doing such things without knowing it.

How do members of the profession treat each other? Frequently, not very well, sometimes very ill—I am sorry to say. There is altogether too much mutual distrust and small minded jealousy in our ranks. I often think that we are apt to become big in great things, and small in little things. Let me refer first to the town only containing two doctors—Smith and Jones. The two physicians, working together in a profession that we are pleased to designate as a noble one, should be on the most friendly terms. It is in the interest of themselves, their patients, and their profession that such should be the case. And yet how frequently do we find that they are deadly enemies. Such enmity in such is really a calamity for both Smith and Jones, and also for the science of medicine in that town. Sometimes, instead of open enmity, there is an armed neutrality; that is a little more respectable, but scarcely less objectionable.

This sad condition of things is so common that it appears to me that we ought to continue to put forth some strenuous efforts to improve matters. What are the causes? Smith and Jones are both good and honest practitioners, we will suppose. The success of each must depend largely on his reputation. This is a truism which both fully appreciate and concerning which both are duly or unduly sensitive. The public are apt to put a relative valuation on our services. Smith and Jones may be equally good doctors, but a large portion of the community will refuse to think so, and a section will praise Smith at the expense of Jones. This is very unpleasant for Jones and he resents it. He hears that Smith has said something of an unfriendly nature about him. Some simple remark made by Smith is so terribly twisted and grossly exaggerated in the report given to Jones that the latter becomes very angry. If Jones asked Smith about the matter in nine cases out of ten the trouble would probably be settled amicably. I have only to say professional jealousy is not confined to small towns. In this city—Good Toronto—we have quite a sufficiency of the commodity.

I have not time to discuss in detail the means we should adopt to banish jealousy from our ranks, but I may say, in a general way, that we