

How can the sanitarian, the gynecologist, the ophthalmologist, the general surgeon, or the military surgeon obtain the professional facility essential to scientific success without the hints, suggestions, and information to be obtained from the practice of his fellows? So essential is this that the specialist who fails to avail himself of such opportunities had better lay aside his special pretensions at once—discard his speculum, lay down his scalpel, resign his commission—for he writes himself down clearly as one who fails to read the fundamental signs which spell success. The absurd position of the aspirant to recognition as a specialist who abstains from joining with his fellow-specialists in the collective development of the branch of the art, to special proficiency in which he pretends, because, forsooth, he “already belongs to so many societies that he cannot do justice to them,” is a spectacle for gods and men! And yet a spectacle which not infrequently obtrudes itself upon the attention of the profession.

More specialized than any other medical specialty, the field of medical journalism has for nearly two score years been held together with varying degrees of firmness by the American Medical Editors' Association. Much of the time inadequate to its opportunities, it has, nevertheless, during the passage of years, been a fair reflection of prevalent sentiment as to the desirability of combined conduct. And with the crystalization of opinion, and the materialization of the necessity for organized action in other directions, it has stood well abreast of the other participants in the great procession of progress. Participation in the work of the organization is to-day more necessary than ever to him who proposes to practice the specialty of medical editorship.

During the past year the Association has fixed its feet more firmly than ever before upon the rock of endurance, and in the highway of usefulness. The adoption of a well-considered system of government in its new constitution and by-laws has contributed to it a permanent and definite foundation. The increase of its annual dues to a fairly reasonable figure has provided an assurance of sincerity to its aspect, and a promise of productivity to its soil. The publication of the handsome booklet in which the proceedings and papers of the last meeting are perpetuated, gives it a definite position, a personal literature and a manifest reason for existence.

Under the guidance and inspiration of an Association such as this the future of medical journalism insures a brilliant career for the medical journalist of the future.

The field of medical journalism is broad—wide as the lapse of the ages during which man shall be born, live out his brief day and pass into eternity. The possibilities of medical journalism are only limited by the boundaries of human endeavor. It may not be said of the medical press that—