

original writer have been preserved to a considerable extent. Percival's code of ethics was prepared for his son engaged in the study of medicine, and, as he writes in the dedication, it was composed "with the tenderest impulse of paternal love, and not a single moral rule was framed without a secret view to his designation, and an anxious wish that it might influence his future conduct." Here is another quotation from the dedication :

"The relation in which a physician stands to his patient, to his brethren, and to the public, are complicated and multifarious, involving much knowledge of human nature and extensive moral duties. The study of professional ethics, therefore, cannot fail to invigorate and enlarge your understanding. While the observance of the duties which they enjoin will soften your manners, expand your affections and form you to that probity and dignity of conduct which are essential to the character of a gentleman."

The code is arranged in three chapters as follows :

1. The duties of physicians to their patients and the obligations of patients to their physicians.
2. The duties of physicians to each other and to the profession at large.
3. The duties of the profession to the public, and the obligations of the public to the profession.

In the articles to appear in future numbers of the *QUARTERLY* this arrangement will be followed, one article being devoted to each chapter.

When contrasted with other pursuits the practice of medicine is peculiar. The doctor does not deal with facts and laws of the same exactness as those in other branches of science, for the problems of disease contain many elements which cannot be estimated with absolute certainty, and the results are not to be summed up with mathematical precision. It is impossible for the physician himself to judge correctly of the results in all his cases; and, for those not engaged in the study of disease, it is out of the question to do so. Hence the doctor is often blamed unjustly, and perhaps quite as often receives praise not strictly his due. People cannot form a true judgment of the work of the physician by the recovery or death of his patient. The choice of a doctor is often determined by other considerations than those