

tioner has a three-fold duty—one to himself, one to his patients, one to his fellow-practitioners. At all times he must remember that he has a professional reputation and standing to maintain. While he must be kindly and courteous to all, his intimate friends and associates must be such as will tend to raise rather than to lower him intellectually and morally. As to his habits he must be like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion. Another point of considerable importance and one likely to be overlooked is that on no consideration must the practitioner allow his office to be used as a meeting-place for his friends. No matter how unobjectionable his friends may be, no patient likes to come into his physician's office and find a number of young men sitting around. This is not to be wondered at. Everyone likes his physical ailments to be considered as a private matter. Especially is this true of female patients and as a very large proportion of our patients are females we readily see how important it is that we do not allow our friends to be a cause of offence. The principle which a young practitioner should adopt for his guidance is that the patient's ailments are the patient's private business and do not concern anyone else. The doctor has no right to talk to anyone about any patient's troubles. Many a time the doctor will be tempted to violate this rule. Sometimes, perhaps, he will feel like mentioning a peculiar case or one that has occurred in a family of some prominence, hoping thereby to add to his reputation and incidentally to his practice. He must resist the temptation. If he has done good work, given satisfaction and earned the gratitude of his patient and the patient's friends, they will do the advertising more successfully than he can and without any loss of his professional reputation. Again he will be tempted by the busybody who will always be enquiring affectionally about everyone who may be sick in the neighbourhood and in repeating what he learns from the doctor will always make additions which will astonish the doctor when he hears them. The young practitioner will also be plied with questions by the reporter. The reporter is not to be blamed for seeking information but the practitioner is to blame if he gives it. How can the doctor refuse the information thus sought in the interest of the public? Quite easily. Refer the reporter to the patient's friends. They will give him all they wish to have published. In this way you