

(4.) *Commercialism.*—Medical men have rights as well as other people.

They have a right—and it is even their duty—to provide for themselves and their families. They have a right to look after their own health, although this is often a most difficult matter. And with a view to these ends they have a right to charge reasonable fees, and to take adequate steps to collect them. God knows that the conscientious physician earns all he gets and a great deal he never gets. These rights of the physician will readily be conceded. But they are only subordinate and conditional—subordinate to the interests of his patients and conditional on having performed his whole duty to those who have entrusted him with their lives. We have no right to prostitute our skill or our talents to the mere getting of money. The interests of our patients and the honor of a noble profession have first claims on us, and in so far as we depart from this line of professional rectitude we depart from the true genius of our profession, which is to relieve pain, to save life, and to practise charity.

(5.) *Misconceptions.*—So far we have been considering some of the defects in our own ranks that contribute to that lack of cordial appreciation of our services which we have a right to expect from a generous public.

For these blemishes on the escutcheon of an honorable profession the members of that profession are directly responsible. But there are other causes operating to bring us into contempt; causes for which we as a profession are not directly responsible. These causes emanate from the people themselves who misconstrue the true aims and motives of the profession. It is a strange thing but true, that every community, every society, every church, every profession is judged not by the many true and loyal members but by the few unworthy ones that are to be found in all these. That there are defects and serious defects to be found in all of us and in the best of us is beyond dispute. But that the profession as a whole is actuated by unworthy motives is a charge to which we plead "Not Guilty."

There are other things we count dearer than fame or money or comfort. We have characters to maintain untarnished; we have reputations to build up and guard; we have the honor of a noble profession to uphold. These are heritages that money cannot buy—that selfishness and unmanly bickerings cannot give us. The true physician would rather die a poor man with an approving conscience and the benediction