

you into contact with the clergy and ministers of the various denominations and in conscientiously fulfilling your anxious duties you will not only find in them staunch friends but your chief supporters also in many of your most trying cases. When summoned to attend cases of apoplexy, organic heart disease, desperate wounds, or other serious injuries that are apt to end in sudden death, prudence may render it necessary for you to conceal from the patient your own apprehension as to the result lest he should at once lose hope and be driven to despair, which could not fail to exercise a grave and possibly fatal influence. In such cases, however, it will be your duty to give timely and private warning to those especially interested and never, so far as it is possible to avoid it, let any fellow creature pass away from life without apprizing the relatives or friends of the probability of such an event.

It is well that you should, whether a Roman Catholic or not, be cognizant of the duties required at the hands of a medical practitioner by Catholic patients. When in attendance in Catholic families be especially careful in cases of dangerous illness to warn the immediate friends in order that the sufferer may receive the last sacrament.

If in a midwifery case the child of Catholic parents is believed to be in danger of dying it must be baptized.

You should school yourself never to exhibit surprise at any possible event arising out of illness. You will be supposed to fore-know all conceivable things relating to disease, its dangers, its terminations. Even when death has unexpectedly occurred to someone under your treatment, do not let your manner or language indicate that you were altogether ignorant of its possibility, or that you regard yourself in any way to blame.

In every stage of your career be it your aim that your profession is not in concert with death, but, on the contrary, that all its characteristics are indicative of health giving and life restoring power. Neither Hygeia nor her parent, Aesculapius, is represented with the habiliments of mourning but, in place thereof, we see Aesculapius armed with serpents, the symbol of wisdom and convalescence. Remember, moreover, that death is the physician's great antagonist and that when he defeats your efforts and extinguishes the spark of life, your duty ends. Do not then essay (otherwise than mentally) to offer up a prayer or stay and administer draughts to nervous relatives and friends, or tender your services for promiscuous duties such as carrying messages, etc., but, at the earliest fitting moment, quietly withdraw. Leave the laying out of the body and all such matters to friends. Abstain also from visiting the house of mourning for the purpose of viewing the dead, and, except when it is absolutely necessary, avoid attendance at the funeral of deceased patients. More especially refrain from writing apologetic letters to the people expressing self-reproach for failing to recognize this or that fact or regret at not having followed a different plan of treatment. If there are any facts in connection with the case that call for explanation let your communication be made verbally.

Never have recourse to such deceptive tricks as to assure a patient that you will not lance his boil but merely wish to examine it and then