

Spencer would say, the "definite heterogeneity" of the profession grows, to the vast advantage of the public and of the profession, even of those members who are not themselves specialists. Meanwhile, in the clerical profession, we know only the old-fashioned "general practitioner."

The analogy is good and instructive. The country doctor, riding the round of his patients, must be a general practitioner—physician, surgeon, apothecary and dentist, all in one. But as soon as the number of doctors increases with the growth of large centralized populations, specialization of course begins and grows with the development of society. But in the same town which boasts its oculist and aurist, its operative surgeon, its specialists in throat and lungs, or in nerves and brain, there are a score of Christian ministers with aptitudes just as marked for the specialties of their profession. One has a charming faculty for preaching to children; another has a convincing, illuminating way with perplexed or skeptical minds; a third draws the street crowd in a throng that he somehow fails to fasten and organize; a fourth is pre-eminent as an organizer, and his church is distinguished for the efficient work of all its members; another yet has the enviable gift of bedside and fireside ministry, so that his very entrance into a house is a benediction.

Now, it is not to be desired, even for the interest of his specialty, that these men of diverse gifts should be wholly withdrawn from "general practice." But what vast increase of "the effectiveness and usefulness of the ministry" in that town, if the One Church represented in these mutually detached congregations could come to *know* that it is one and not many, and that all these variously gifted men, bearing each other's burdens, supplementing the inevitable defect and disproportion of each other's work, are colleagues in the ministry of the One Church of the town, and no longer competitors pulling against each other at cross purposes, with the idea that somehow the resultant of their several forces would be to the furtherance of the gospel!

Such increase of effectiveness is not unattainable in any town where are found pastors to whom personal, parochial and sectarian considerations are subordinated to the love of God and man and of the One Church. But it is not likely to be attained by waiting for the results of diplomacy between national denominations.