

KK in attaining his position:—Not one offered to place himself in close contact with a highly infectious malady, and perhaps become the vehicle of death, and disease to those who cheered his fireside; to subject himself to the importunate summons of the feverish sufferers at all seasons and at all hours; to assume before high Heaven a responsibility involving the life of a fellow-being, to watch the ebbing tide of vitality with the heart-sickening sense of the insufficiency of human science, to pore over books in the anxious search for some feeble ray to clear the dark uncertainty of the result of the treatment, to perform the most loathsome offices in the midst of squalid misery, and while thus occupied to sustain the loss of other business of an agreeable and remunerative character.

Not one of the other donors had offered to expose his reputation to be scanned by unfriendly eyes, to have the most unworthy motives attributed to his conduct, and to have any failure in his kind exertions ascribed to want of skill in his vocation. Yet evidently the apothecary, the baker, and even the wood-sawyer whose subscription depended upon a contingency, were all regarded in the light of *liberal* men in comparison with the Doctor, and in this instance they exercised their judgment precisely in the same way as, I am sorry to say a majority of the mass of the people usually do at the present day.

From long usage these gratuitous services are expected by the public as a matter of course. Even so universal has this impression become, that legislation, while it denies any encouragement, or protection to the student, and practitioner of medicine enforces the performance of certain duties without fee or hope of reward.

To nearly all public charities the Medical Profession is alone expected to cheerfully render its services, in return for the supposed eclat and advantages the individual may derive from the situation of consulting Physician, Surgeon, &c., to—Dispensary, Hospital, as the title may be. The Clergy of all the various denominations look for an immunity from all charge at the hands of the Dr. but patiently and willingly submit to the exactions of the druggist, and although they would recoil in holy horror from the payment of a Doctor's fee, they willingly pay an exorbitant price for some showily labelled catholicon.

In requital of this gratis medication, they become puffers for their favorites, or interfere by urging upon the patient untimely

and unnecessary consultations, or wholly regardless of the interests of a profession to which they are so deeply indebted, advocate quack medicaments, or exclusive and empirical systems of medicine. Every neophyte in the practice of medicine, vainly imagines that a course of advice gratis will ensure for him the favourable notice of the Lady Bountiful of his town or village, and in this delusion casts his bread upon the waters with the hope of reaping golden opinions as well as more substantial returns after many days. Another source of detriment to the interests of the profession, originates in the mistaken liberality of refusing compensation from intimate friends, and connections. It is truly surprising how little gratitude such munificence begets, and in how short a period it is entirely forgotten. Frequently the recipients vilify the obligation and repay it with obloquy. Every physician should bear in mind the duty of upholding the value of the benefits conferred by the *ars medendi*, and never allow private feeling to preclude his demanding some unequivocal indication of a due appreciation of this usefulness.

All urgent applications for aid must of course be humanely and promptly responded to, regardless of emolument; but the moment of imminent danger once passed, the practitioner should firmly insist upon the community making provision for the further attendance and sustenance of the patient, and in the absence of any government provisions his fees should be defrayed by subscription. If he be of a benevolent disposition his own contribution may far exceed any profit he shall derive from the case, but the recognition of his *right* to indemnification for his labours from some quarter should be steadfastly urged.

It is a fact well known to the people at large, that medical attendance on the sick in indigent circumstances, usually falls to the lot of the junior practitioners, and so far from any thanks being awarded for their services, it is looked upon as a necessary step in their professional career, like the free distribution of the various ingenious forms of advertisements adopted by persons in trade. The young Drs. with keen alacrity pounce upon every victim.

“As puffing quacks some caitiff wretch procure to swear the pill or drop, has wrought a cure,” the latter generally awakes to health with astonishment, and delight at his lucky preservation from the experiments of the tyro. There appears very properly to be a popular feeling against the establishment in this country of those con-