

ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS AS A CITIZEN TO IMPROVE SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

However grave physical suffering and disability may be, they are of much less importance than the evils resulting from moral and intellectual degradation. No vocation in life has so close a connection with the moral and intellectual conditions as the calling of the medical citizen. He finds the zone of moral and intellectual destitution even more extensive than do either the clergy or courts of justice. He comes in contact with this form of destitution in every grade of society from the haunts of squalid misery all the way up to those "clothed in purple and fine linen" and dwelling in the mansions of the rich and aristocratic.

The ethical obligations of the medical citizen call for the use of his technical knowledge and experience to help individuals, society and the state to elevate moral and intellectual conditions, and, on the other hand, help to stamp out any vices and customs that are detrimental to these. The abortionist, the most cowardly and vilest of all murderers, should have no mercy shown him. He is a degenerate medical parasite and should be sternly exterminated. The physician who treats a young man for venereal disease without making any reference to the moral destitution associated with impurity fails to discharge his ethical obligations as a medical citizen. If the patient is not warned of the danger and degradation associated with an immoral life, he will, in all probability, remain the victim of an overpowering passion. Impurity is not only demoralizing to the individual and debasing to society, but injurious to the state, as it begets a degenerate population. The medical citizen, on account of his technical knowledge, is under greater obligation than even any other citizen to aid in the preservation of purity of life. He must invariably follow the example of the "Great Physician," who touched impurity with matchless compassion, but told the sinner to "Sin no more." None know better than the physician the number of young people wrecked through ignorance about the sexual functions. These deluded creatures become the prey of the avaricious charlatans. Every boy and girl, on arriving at puberty, should be taught the facts pertaining to the functions of the generative system. It is ignorance and not knowledge that is to be dreaded in this matter; and it is the medical citizen who should impart this knowledge in our schools.

Intimately associated with the vice of impurity is the vice of intemperance. The latter, as the former, affects all grades of society. Here again the medical citizen's knowledge places him