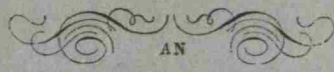


*The responsibility and duty of the Physician*



AN

INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

*The responsibility and duty of the Physician*

SUBMITTED TO THE

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE,

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

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1851.

W. T. BERRY & CO.,  
BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS,  
NASHVILLE, TENN.

## The responsibility & duty of the Physician

It is more than probable that but few if any, ever thought seriously on the great responsibility resting upon the man that forges his banner to the breeze, and offers his services to the people as a Physician, and above all others he should be a man with clean hands and a pure heart, and in every sense of the word a philanthropist.

The Clergy, has the care of souls at heart, but the Physician, in one sense of the word, has both the soul and body of his patient in his hands, consequently he should be a high minded honorable man a man that can sympathize with suffering humanity.

Many contend that the Physician should be a man of a strong nerve, a man, that can

see his patients suffer, even  
in the agonies of death, without  
showing any sympathy for  
fear of alarming his patients.

It is true that the Physi-  
cian should have a good nerve  
to go forward to discharge  
his duty in any emergency,  
but let the opinion of others  
be what it may, I contend  
that he should be a man that  
can feel and sympathize for  
his patients, and it is not a  
mistake sometimes to let the pa-  
tient know it.

I hope I will be pardon-  
ed for giving a case that  
occurred with me in my <sup>ill</sup> <sup>small</sup>  
several years since Mr A  
was taken violently ill, the  
most of his friends had dis-  
paired of his recovery, he be-  
lieved himself that he would  
die, his family Physician

which was a verry eminent man, the Doctor was not at home, consequently I was sent for, just as I got to the house of the sick man, and seated my self by his bed side the Doctor first sent for road up, and as he was an older Physician than myself, I did not proceed to examine the patient until he came in as I well knew he was the patients choise

As the Doctor made his appearance in the room, he ~~took~~ his seat by the sick man, and asked him how he was he said to the Doctor that he was verry sick and would soon die, the Doctor said to him no indeed what makes you think so, Oh I have such a pain in my breast and side it will

Kill me, the Doctor said  
what is the matter with your  
side and breast has a mus-  
cle kicked you, to be short,  
The Doctor did not seem  
to feel any sympathy for  
the sick man that sup-  
posed himself to be almost  
dead

I saw proper to pursue  
a different course in my ex-  
amination I felt of his pu-  
lse, examined the thick bro-  
wn coat on his Tempore, ge-  
ntly paped my hand over  
his face, stroked his hair  
back, and paped my hand  
on his bosom and exam-  
ined the temperature of his  
skin, and frankly and  
honestly, told him that I new  
he suffered much and was  
very sick but I thought we  
could prepare some medicine

that would have him better  
in a few days

The Dr and myself  
agreed on a prescription  
and as soon as we prepared  
the medicine, the Doctor left  
and as soon as he left  
the room the patient said  
to me that he would not  
take the medicine I asked  
him why he said that Doc-  
tor had no feeling for a sick  
man and said that there was  
not much the matter with him  
consequently he would not  
take his medicine but insisted  
on me to prepare something  
for him and he would take  
it he further said that he  
believed if there was any ch-  
-ance for him to get well  
I could cure him, I told him  
that I felt great delicacy  
to take the responsibility

On my self to change the prescription, he insisted that I should. finally I told him that I would do so, I proposed him the medicine differing but little from the former prescription he took the medicine and soon recovered, from that day I have not only been his Family Physician, but the Physician of that neighbourhood generally.

From many years experience in the practice of medicine I have arrived at the conclusion that it is wright as a general rule for the Physician to be honest with his patients.

I must admit however, that in some instances of obstructions the Physician should show less sympathy than in other cases as it is calculated to

alarm the sufferer ~~xxxx~~  
and probably to prolong the  
labour

It may be necessary in some  
instances not to let the pati-  
ent know their situation un-  
til all hopes is lost of their  
recovery. then let the course  
of others be what it may I  
can never reconcile it to my  
feelings to deceive a patient  
of mine, and hold out the idea  
of them that they will get  
well and believe at the  
same time to the contrary

It is frequently the case  
that Physicians makes and  
awful blunder when first  
called to a patient by say-  
ing it is a very simple dis-  
e, and the patient will be  
well in a few days when  
probably she has not for-  
med a correct idea of the



diagnosis of the disease the patient is actually worse than he supposed and finally dies

Such mistakes is very apt to destroy the reputation of a young Physician, and is not calculated to do much credit to the old and more experienced Practitioner

It is out of the question to make a man that is very sick and suffering acute pain to believe there is not much the matter with him, the Physician had better be honest with his patient and agree with him that he is sick and tell him there is a probability of getting better after taking medicine

Nothing is more absurd

than the doctrine advocated  
by many. <sup>that</sup> There is but little  
if any responsibility resting  
on the Physician, and that  
any person that can <sup>blindly</sup> give  
an emetic or purge will  
do to practice medicine,  
when in reality he  
should not only be a  
man of sense but sho  
uld understand every  
branch of his profession  
well if he does not it will  
be impossible for him to  
detect the different type  
of diseases, and in some  
instances in all probability  
will bleed or give an active  
Cathartic when a Tonic  
is necessary which would  
destroy the life of his pati  
ent

In our humble opinion  
the quack from pecuniary

motives that would inspire  
himself on an innocent  
community, to practice wi-  
thout the necessary quali-  
fications, and should destroy  
the life of an individual sh-  
ould, he keep it concealed from  
the world, and is not a-  
mensurable to the laws of his  
Country he will be held respon-  
sible by his God as a  
murderer

To speak of the duty of  
the Physician it is his duty  
to go and do good, heal  
the sick, administer to those  
that need his assistance,  
watch around the bed  
side of the sick by day  
and night as a Guardian  
Angel, show no partiality  
in attending to professional  
calls from selfish motives

It is not only his duty to

go and administer to the opulent, but also to the poor and obscure in the humble cottage

The Physician that will pursue the above course though young and untried, will soon win a name, a character, and reputation that he may justly be proud of and need never <sup>feel</sup> competition

It is the duty of the Physician to go and see the sick when called on, and to do every thing in his power to relieve their suffering and restore them to health if <sup>it is</sup> possible for them to get well never give them up until they are dead, but stay with them and when you can do no more wipe the cold sweat from their brow, give them a little water if necessary, comfort them in their expiring moments

and when the patient is dead it will be no disadvantage to the Physician if he has a heart that can feel to shed a tear if it is from actual sympathy

It is not only the duty of the Physician to be a student while preparing himself for the practice of <sup>med</sup>icine but so long as he practices his profession

The Medical Profession is a scientific and honorable profession, and the man that embarks in it should abhor quackery, and determine to become eminent in his profession he should climb the hill of science step by step until he gains the summit and looks over on the other side, then he can turn and look back and gaze up on a world of beauties