

fortunate condition of all the diverse elements for the formation of a great medical department of a university as in the city of Cincinnati. There seems to be needed but a single waft of a wizard's wand to complete the unity work that has been so auspiciously begun.

The medical profession in a dozen other American cities is not greatly unlike that of Cincinnati in many of the conditions that pertain, and if the local profession in those cities will, Indian fashion, put their ears to the ground and listen attentatively they will hear a low muttering sound that is every day growing louder and more distinct, telling them that if they would keep up with the procession they must fall into line, about face from the old order, and seek for better things in new and closer relations.

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There are those and there always will be some who are wedded to the past and its traditions, who are loth to give up a present with its meagre emoluments for a future with its greatly enlarged and golden glory of surpassing brilliancy, who prefer tallow dips to electric lights, stage coaches and canal packets to vestibule palace cars, who are opposed to a revised version of the Bible, to a revision of the Confession of Faith, the creed and new hymns. So there are well meaning and most exemplary physicians who see visions of calamity and professional anarchy in a revision of the Code of Ethics. These misfortunes are but mists of the imagination. Revision of the Bible and of creeds unsettled no man's faith, nor weakened one of the churches, neither will it destroy or weaken the medical profession to look into the sky and observe the signs of the times. Consolidations, trusts, associations, systems, and unifications strengthen both specific and general purposes. Conditions of purpose apply to the medical profession, in all of its material needs, whether they be of a social, educational or business nature. The medical profession is always conservative, and is sometimes charged with being slow in its movements, but there are visible and tangible evidences that it is catching a full breath of the spirit of progress that pervades the intellectual world in this year of our Lord 1893.

**CONFERENCE OF STATE MEDICAL EXAMINING AND LICENSING BOARDS.**—The third annual meeting of the Conference of State Medical Examining and Licensing Boards will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., June 7, 1893.

The following subjects will be discussed, and we will be glad to have you notify us of your intention to prepare a paper on some one of them, and take part in the discussion of any or all of them. We will also be glad to have you suggest, in advance of the meeting, other subjects you may think it desirable to discuss.

*I. The Evolution of State Medical Examining and Licensing Boards.*

Their present and prospective influence in elevating the moral and intellectual tone of the profession.

*II. Composition of Boards.*

- (a) The desirable number of members.
- (b) The desirable appointing power.
- (c) The advantages and disadvantages of separate boards representing the different schools of practice.

*III. Provisions of the Various State Laws.*

- (a) Should the possession of a diploma from a recognized medical school be a prerequisite to appearing before a board for examination?
- (b) What reciprocal relations should exist between boards?
- (c) Should teachers in medical schools be eligible to membership on State examining boards?
- (d) Defects in existing laws, the best law in vogue, the ideal law.

*IV. Methods of Conducting Examinations.*

- (a) How should the examination be prepared?
- (b) The scope of examinations.
- (c) The minimum and maximum requirements.

JOHN H. RAUCH, M.D., President.

HUGH M. TAYLOR, M.D., Sec'y and Treas.

## DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

### Revision of the Code of Ethics.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:

*Dear Sir:*—While the question of the revision of the Code of Ethics is under discussion, and before the meeting of the Association in June, I should like, with your permission, to say a few words in relation to the proposition. Most of those who have written on this subject were, as we would express it in California, "forty-niners." They were in at the christening of the child, and what more natural than that they, as godfathers, should remain true to the trust assumed.

If we examine this document critically, one of the best things that we can say of the larger part of it is that it consists of an extensive verbiage which, to say the least, is harmless. In fact, this is the best that can be said of the greater portion of it. No one will question the honest intentions of its authors. But if such minute instructions were necessary fifty years ago to guide the profession and the public (?), that necessity certainly does not exist to-day. The Code is largely a dead letter, and only a short remove from obsolescence. A large percentage of the profession have never read it, and very few are familiar with its contents. Much of its statement seems puerile from the standpoint of to-day. Turn, if the readers please, to Article I and read it carefully. Note the minute directions in regard to the duties of physician to patient. While it is a fact that every intelligent and honorable physician conducts his business toward his patients, instinctively or in self-interest, on the principles there laid down, what is the necessity of telling him or commanding him to follow a course which he would naturally follow if there never had been a code of ethics heard of?

Let us read the first sentence of the Code of Ethics:—"A physician should not only be ever ready to obey the calls of the sick, but his mind ought also to be imbued with the greatness of his mission, and the responsibility he habitually incurs in its discharge." And further on: "Physicians should, therefore, minister to the sick with due impressions of the importance of their office; reflecting that the ease, the health, and the lives of those committed to their charge depend on their skill, attention and fidelity." What important statements these are! Would not the physicians of the United States have been a benighted set, and their