

FRATERNITAS MEDICORUM; A REPORT AND A DISCUSSION

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for August 6, 1915, an "Appeal to the Men and Women Engaged in Medical Practise and the Advancement of Medical Sciences" was published, asking them to join the organization of the Medical Brotherhood for the Furtherance of International Morality. It was signed by about 150 members of high standing in the profession of this country, many of whom enjoy an international reputation. Soon after its publication, we began sending out the appeal and an enrollment card to members of the medical profession. We wish now to give an account of the results thus far attained, and to discuss the nature of this venture and its merits.

Report.—To this date about 14,000 American physicians have enrolled as members of the Medical Brotherhood, the greatest part of whom are either members of medical societies of good standing or of societies which cultivate medical sciences. The appeal was also sent to some of the leading members of the profession of other neutral countries. Here again we obtained very encouraging results. We received, and continue to receive, requests from members of the medical profession of these countries to be enrolled as members of the Brotherhood of our country. Among our correspondents are such well-known men as Theodor Kocher, Einthoven, Thalma, Rovsing, Thunberg, Von Monakow, Zwaardemaker, de Quervain, Jacquet, Marsden and others of similar high standing. The appeal was published in some of the medical and scientific journals of these countries, and we have the encouraging information that organizations similar to ours were started there. Quite recently the *Nederlandsche Vereeniging voor Heelkunde* (Holland) requested to be enrolled as a member of the Medical Brotherhood of this country. *We did not approach members of the profession in any of the belligerent countries;* nevertheless, we received requests to be enrolled from medical men in Finland (Russia) who probably read the appeal in Swedish medical journals.

The 14,000 members of the medical profession of this country who have enrolled as mem-

bers of the Brotherhood represent about 15 per cent. of the number of physicians to whom the appeal was sent. We have, therefore, good reasons to consider henceforth the *Fraternitas Medicorum* as an established organization.

Analysis of Objections.—While it is idle to speculate as to the real attitude of those who did not respond to the appeal, certain instructive facts, capable of shedding light upon this question, may, nevertheless, be learned from an analysis of part of the correspondence we have had. We shall not include in the discussion the numerous letters in which the writers unreservedly and enthusiastically approve our movement. But we have to mention that among the enrolled members are some who originally looked upon the enterprise with misgivings. We shall mention further the instructive fact that a number of physicians asked for enrollment cards months after the appeal was sent to them, stating frankly that they threw away the appeal without even having read it, because they were bothered with too many war and peace circulars.

However, we received about 27 letters, the contents of which were unmistakably adverse to our movement. Nine of these communications were anonymous; they contained offensive remarks, assuming that the Medical Brotherhood was a part of an organized German propaganda, that the expenses were met by the German Kaiser.

Among those who signed the adverse letters are several from men who are of high standing in the profession and are personally known to us. Several of our correspondents, some of whom were during the present war for short periods in France, stated that there is not a neutral fiber in them.

Two correspondents objected to the idea that physicians have a higher claim to international morality than other people. Several of our correspondents said that they either could not see the object of the movement or, as one expressed it, he could not see where "the uplift comes in"; or, on the contrary, that the aim of the Brotherhood is too Utopian for them. Finally, several writers approved the idea in general, but thought that the organi-

zation of a Medical Brotherhood should be postponed until after the war.

The objections to the organization of the Medical Brotherhood, as far as could be ascertained from this small number of adverse manifestations, may be summarized as follows: (1) That it is a part of a German propaganda, or, at least (2) a veiled pro-German movement; that (3) it is meant to be a neutral body which, therefore, ought not to be supported because the paramount duty of American physicians ought to be to assist the Allies; that (4) physicians have no higher claim than other people to international morality; that (5) there is no object (no uplift) in this organization; that (6), on the contrary, the object is too Utopian and finally, (7) that the movement is premature.

Financial Resources.—Small as the number of our critics is, their adverse points of view merit public discussion. In so doing we shall deal in the first place with the most objectionable interpretation given to the aims of the Medical Brotherhood, namely, that it is a part of a pro-Teutonic propaganda and that it is financially supported by the German government. In the appeal, as well as in a letter published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Vol. 65, p. 971), it was expressly stated that the Brotherhood is neither a pro-Teutonic nor a pro-Allies movement. Such assurances probably do not reach the type of men who are capable of writing anonymous letters. But we owe it to the medical profession at large to make the following statement regarding the financial resources of the Medical Brotherhood, which is as follows: Private contributions, to the amount of \$630.00 were made, in smaller and larger sums, by some of the enrolled members. The main financial support comes, however, from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The executive committee of this body granted us a liberal fund for the purpose of developing our organization. The executive committee is made up of such men as President Butler, President Pritchett, Elihu Root and others of similar high standing. It is quite safe to say that no individual with nor-

mal judgment could think for a moment that these foremost American citizens would consent to support a pro-Teutonic organization. But ought such a question have been raised at all by any fair-minded member of the profession in the face of the standing of the members of the committee which signed the appeal? Would, for instance, the surgeon generals of the Army, of the Navy, and of the Public Health Service have consented to be honorary presidents, if the Medical Brotherhood had any ulterior, pro-Teutonic or other un-American, tendencies?

General Discussion.—As to the other criticisms, they can be best met, we believe, by discussing the fundamental considerations underlying this movement. The term "brotherhood," it is true, recalls to mind a state in which all men shall treat one another like brothers—like good brothers. This is an ideal which may never be attained. The specter of the unattainable drives practical men away from such ideals. But it should be remembered that the ideal is of great educational value, if utilized merely to indicate the *direction* which our practical activities ought to take. However, the Medical Brotherhood directs its appeal only to the medical fraternity and does not intend to deal with unattainable objects. The medical profession has a training which is scientific in character and method, and which has, in modern times, among its precepts the following maxims: (1) That the development of a new view must be started on the basis of an assured fact and not from mere desire or by the impulse of an untamed phantasy. (2) That one need not be afraid to assume, or to work for, something which has not received the approval of that great authority, the practically wise man. (3) That one should not work for the demonstration of the correctness of the new assumption, or for the realization of the new aim, in the manner of the practical man, that is, by violent activities and in the expectation of attaining completely the desired end in a month or a year (perhaps to lose it in a shorter time), but, on the contrary, must work patiently, trying to attain the end, or even only small parts of it, by

steps which may appear to be very small but which offer the greatest chance for permanency. (4) That one is not to be discouraged by some failures. And, finally (5) that one is to care more for progress in the right direction, than for attainment of the goal.

Now the development of our organization was started on the basis of the following indisputable facts. The ethical relations between separate nations are far behind the state of morals governing the relations of individuals of the same nation. International morality progresses at best in waves, positive and negative, making perhaps three steps forward and two and sometimes four or five steps backward. However, during the normal state of the world's affairs, ethical men of all countries are ready to be guided by the two great moral principles: patriotism and humanity. The present world-wide catastrophe demonstrated, however, that even the most idealistic citizen is often incapable, and, in fact, is usually not in a position, to serve both ethical principles at the same time, while his country, right or wrong, is at war with another country. Physicians, however, are in an exceptional position; they are permitted and even required to observe both ethical demands even during war. In war the physician's services to his country are as necessary, as great, as that of the warrior, but he is in the fortunate position of being able to treat his compatriot and his country's foe alike. That standard of morality is upheld not only by the medical profession itself, but is practically demanded by the regulations agreed upon by the various international conventions, regulations which have been rarely broken even in the present most brutal war. Even in the present state of frightful confusion of judgment, practically no sane individual exists who would not consider this standard of morality desirable to obtain in all domains of human endeavor—if it were attainable. These are safe facts. Now the Medical Brotherhood was organized primarily to bring these instructive facts to the consciousness of the members of the medical profession, to tell them of their ethically privileged status. This

message is not sent to non-medical men; neither do we mean to say to the non-medical man: we physicians are holier than thou. We wish only to convey to physicians the message that their profession permits them to remain at all times simultaneously patriotic and humane, and that they should train their character properly so that they could be fit to exercise this high privilege. The nearest and simplest end to be gained from such information is the consciousness of a sense of higher duties which comes from the knowledge of one's higher moral dignity.

There is no doubt that the medical profession is a noble calling. Do medical men represent a noble class? They ought to. There are two good reasons for such an expectation. "A medical man whose ethical standard is not above that of the average man is morally below him." His activities are of a most serious nature; they concern life; and, furthermore, they can not, as in other callings, be controlled by anybody or anything else but the physician's own conscience; that conscience therefore must be of a higher type. Then the physician has constantly to deal with suffering, that of the patient and of those to whom the patient is dear; sympathy, therefore, ought to be an integral part of the make-up of the desirable physician. It is true that the medical calling is at the same time the physician's business by which he makes his livelihood; it is therefore often afflicted with many of the moral shortcomings which frequently go with money-making occupations. The Medical Brotherhood, however, does not deal and does not have to deal with this side of the physician's life. It deals with the physician in his relation to his country, when he acts and has to act as a patriot; or when other countries are at war with one another, when the physician of neutral countries has to act as a humanitarian. Here every physician can afford to exercise his noble profession in a noble spirit. It is that for which the Medical Brotherhood appeals to all physicians of our country. That alone seems to us to be an object worth while working for.

The fact that within only about nine months

and without agitation and publicity about 14,000 members of the medical profession of the United States alone should have joined the Medical Brotherhood shows that we struck the right chord. This group of medical men and women, the vast majority of whom surely have more or less idealism, represents about 10 per cent. of the medical profession of this country. Moreover, there can be no doubt that the appeal issued by the committee exerted a morally favorable influence upon many members of the profession who did not formally join the Medical Brotherhood; and there is great probability that a good many will join it, when the war approaches its end.

In this connection we may call attention to the most encouraging fact that the medical journals of our country act in a most exemplary manner with relation to the war. None of the journals, at least none known to us, has indulged in offensive discussions of the various belligerent nations or made disparaging comments on the behavior of the medical members of these nations. The subject of the present war has been handled by the medical journals with rare good sense and tact. In a general way, the same may be claimed for the utterance of the members of the medical profession when made in lay gatherings or publications, although here the unavoidable small fraction of exceptions has not been lacking. The Medical Brotherhood has had occasion to remonstrate in two instances: in one with complete and in the other with partial success.

From the point of view of the scientific investigator, who is not afraid of Utopian ideals which may give him the direction for his work, but who works for his goal by small and practicable steps, we may claim for the movement of the Medical Brotherhood that it has a definite object, "an uplift," that it is not Utopian in its direction, that it was undertaken at the right time—when the medical mind was in a state of fermentation—in *statu nascenti*, and, best of all, that the movement has already attained a gratifying success: it has aroused the moral, humane spirit in a great many mem-

bers of the profession in this country as well as in other neutral countries.

We have no quarrel with those of our colleagues who do not wish to join the Brotherhood, because, as they say, they can not be neutral in this war. No matter with which party one sides, and what his wishes may be, we do not question the moral nature of his motives. But we wish to make the following remarks: First, the Medical Brotherhood does not aim for mere neutrality. Neutrality is neither impartiality nor humanity. A neutral occupies, with reference to war, the same moral level as the belligerents, with the mere difference that he is not in it, or not yet in it. The Medical Brotherhood wishes to occupy a position above this level. War represents a very backward place in the development of human ethics. The various belligerent nations are simply products of the same moral phase, the same development period. The medical profession is fortunate to be able to occupy an advanced ethical position. Its members should be aware of it and should adhere to it. Secondly, the Medical Brotherhood is, from practical considerations, concerned only with the medical part of its members. As private individuals the members are at liberty to sympathize chiefly or exclusively with one side or the other of the warring parties. What we expect of members of the Medical Brotherhood is that they should commit no public act which is not in harmony with the advanced moral standing of the medical profession. One who does not feel that he can bind himself to this simple obligation, or one who does not believe, or does not want to assume, that the medical profession occupies an advanced moral position, should, of course, not join the Medical Brotherhood. This organization must consist of medical men and women who believe in the advanced ethical position of the medical profession and are willing to live up to this belief. It is as certain as day that only good and no harm can come from such a belief.

We shall not risk presentation of a list of problems which we may be called upon to try to solve now or later; "each bridge will be

crossed when we get to it." One thing we may state definitely: we do not intend to meddle with problems which deal with the termination of the present war. The exertion of our energies will be limited to that which is attainable to us. On the other hand, we contemplate dealing definitely with this one problem: at the termination of the war, or even at the mere sight of this termination, an attempt should be made to unite the medical men of all the neutral countries for the purpose of arranging an early international meeting of the medical profession, to which meeting some members of the profession of the belligerent countries, who are or may then be in harmony with our ideals may be invited. We shall thus perhaps be in a position to accelerate an early *rapprochement* and fraternal reconciliation of the members of the medical profession of all the civilized nations. Here again we shall attempt to do our duty as we see it, without being too sanguine as to an early and complete success.

Hippocratic Oath.—A few of our sympathizing correspondents wished to know whether the aims of the Medical Brotherhood are not already covered by the Hippocratic oath. No; that oath covers only the relations of the physician to the individual as his private patient or pupil. As we all know, the influence of this oath leaves plenty of room for the ethical activities of the American Medical Association, the newly created College of Surgeons, etc. The Medical Brotherhood does not intend to deal with any part of this phase of medical affairs; it has in view exclusively the relations of the physician to his country as a patriot and to other countries as a humanitarian.

Patriotism and Medical Preparedness.—We have stated that medical men are in a position to be patriots and humanitarians at the same time. We have so far dealt exclusively with the international side of the Brotherhood. In fact, in the appeal it was expressly stated "For the Furtherance of International Morality." However, it would not be out of place to add a few remarks regarding patriotism and the relation of the physician to it. The pres-

ent war, while presenting a frightful picture of the bloody struggle between the nations, has revealed, on the other hand, a most remarkable ethical side of the relations of the individual to the state in each and every one of the belligerent countries. The readiness of the individual to be helpful to, and sacrifice himself for, the state stands out as a shining light in the midst of the extreme darkness of the war. But here we wish to speak especially of the relations of our own physicians to our own country. Preparedness is a subject which at present agitates profoundly the minds of all of our citizens. It is none of our concern here to discuss this subject from the general point of view as citizens. As physicians, however, there can not be the slightest doubt that it is the duty of every member of the profession, who is in a position to do so, to offer his assistance to the medical department of the military organization of our country. We do not know when the country will be called upon to defend itself. It may come suddenly, like a bolt from the skies, which are surely not clear at the present time. Physicians who are not devoid of a sense of duty, should, therefore, prepare themselves with the necessary knowledge and skill, and should in large numbers inform the military medical department of their willingness to serve in case of need. The hygienist, bacteriologist and internist, etc., can be of just as much service as the surgeon in the incidents of war. The medical man who marches with the scouts ahead of the army to select camps, to test the drinking water, etc., is as important as those who work behind the lines. And the medical man whose daily work brings him in contact with infectious and contagious diseases is trained in courage as high as the veteran of many battles; bacteria are as deadly as bullets, and in his daily work the physician, like the man in the firing line, never knows when they may strike him.

On the other hand, the practitioner knows now quite well what importance is to be attached to sympathetic psychical treatment of patients who are in need of it. A training to preserve humaneness in the midst of passion and hatred ought to be a part of medical pre-

paredness. After furious battles the poor injured prisoner of war needs often this mode of treatment as much as the surgical one.

The Medical Brotherhood of this country wishes to gather into its union those members of the medical profession who have a vein of idealism in them and who are willing to serve their country as patriots and humanitarians. It appeals further to the inspired ones to spread this gospel, wherever they find opportunity, with impressiveness combined with patience and tolerance.

S. J. MELTZER,

President of the Medical Brotherhood

GRANTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

DURING the past year, the sub-committee on research funds of the Committee of One Hundred of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has endeavored to secure information regarding research funds and particularly such as are available without substantial limitations as to the residence or institutional relations of the grantee.

The following list of endowments of the latter class, while doubtless incomplete, is believed to comprehend the more important with the exception of those devoted to medical research. From most of them grants of moderate sums for research may be made to suitable applicants. The list is arranged alphabetically according to location.

Unless otherwise stated the figures given refer to the principal of the endowment. The amounts are to be considered as approximate only.

For information regarding the conditions upon which grants may be made from any particular fund, application should be addressed to the officer indicated in the list.

The present article constitutes a portion of a report made at the Columbus meeting of the American Association. Other portions will be published later.

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston, Mass.

Rumford Fund. \$66,300. For Rumford Premium and investigations in light and heat carried on in America. Charles R. Cross, Chairman, 28 Newbury St., Boston, Mass.

Cyrus M. Warren Fund. \$12,500. For chemical research. Henry P. Talbot, Chairman, 28 Newbury St., Boston, Mass.

Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund, Boston, Mass. \$26,000. "For the advancement and prosecution of scientific research in its broadest sense" without limitation as to country. Walter B. Cannon, Secretary, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. Advancement of Astronomical Science Funds; 1901, 1902. \$40,000. For aiding work of astronomers in any part of the world. Edward C. Pickering, Director, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.

Davenport Academy of Sciences, Davenport, Iowa. Mary L. D. Putnam Fund. \$23,000. A certain portion applicable to research. Edward K. Putnam, Acting Director, Davenport, Iowa.

Ohio Academy of Sciences, Delaware, Ohio. Annual gift. \$250. Applied to research. Edward L. Rice, Secretary, Delaware, Ohio.

Engineering Foundation Board, New York City, N. Y. Ambrose Swasey Fund. \$200,000. Regulations regarding use not yet formulated. F. R. Hutton, Secretary, 29 W. 39th St., New York, N. Y.

Sarah Berliner Fellowship for Women, New York City, N. Y. \$1,000 annually. For study and research in physics, chemistry and biology. Mrs. Christine Ladd Franklin, Chairman, 527 W. 110th St., New York, N. Y.

New York Academy of Sciences, New York City, N. Y.

John Strong Newberry Fund. \$1,000.

Audubon Fund. \$2,500.

Esther Hermann Fund. \$10,000.

For investigation in natural sciences. Michael Idvorsky Pupin, President, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Calif. Endowments yielding upwards of \$65,000 annually, used in considerable part for research. Barton W. Evermann, Director, San Francisco, Calif.

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D. C.

General Research Fund. About \$25,000. For investigation in any department of science. L. O. Howard, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Colburn Fund. About \$75,000. For "original research in the physical or psychic demonstrable sciences." Regulations regarding use