

## THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL JOURNALISM\*

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IF I WERE asked (and I admit that I have not been) What is the future of medical journalism? I should answer without fear of contradiction, Yes, a thousand time Yes.

Medical journalism is still an infant industry. In the United States, for example, there are not 300 medical journals,—much less than one three-hundred thousandth of a journal for each man, woman and child in this country!

In New York City, with less than six million people, there are over four hundred thousand telephones. Think, then, of the development that awaits medical journalism. Remember, too, that it was only a few hundred years since printing was invented.

There are not yet nearly enough journals to print all the papers and reports written by members of the medical profession. The more they write the more journals are needed, and the more journals are published the more doctors must write. And so I say again, the future is still before us.

So long as we have only a few hundred medical journals, which physicians can read through in one evening a week, so long will they be tempted to spend the other six evenings in family gatherings, at medical meetings, and in other unprofitable ways. And just so long will medicine lag behind its great future!

Recognizing, then, that medical journalism has so much future before it, it is our duty as medical editors to seize that future as quickly as possible and distribute its glories among our clamoring posterity.

Proud of the triumphant accomplishments of medical journalism in the past, let us, while we are waiting for its future, spread the gospel to the profession at large.

\* Read at the next annual meeting of the South American Medical Editors Amalgamation.

To all our colleagues who have failed in practice let the cheering words go forth that an illustrious career and a munificent income awaits each of them in the still undeveloped editorial field.

### DISCUSSION.

DR. SWIPER, editor of the *Medical Synopsis*.—Both Dr. Paste and the Association are to be congratulated on this splendid, original and virile paper. I think we must all agree with the author that medical journalism has indeed a future. I move a vote of thanks to Dr. Paste and would ask him to send me a reprint of this excellent address which presents so much food for thought.

DR. CRITICUS, assistant editor of the *Alabama Autopsy*.—Dr. Paste has covered this subject so fully that there is nothing I can add, but I cannot allow such an inspiring paper to pass without congratulating the author. One little idea occurred to me. As I thought back to Hippocrates and Vesuvius, I mean Vesalius, and Galen and the other charter members of this association, and then looked about the room at our present members, the thought struck me, *isn't the future of medical journalism already here?*

DR. QUERY, editor of the *Pensacola Proctologist*.—I should like to ask Dr. Paste how we are to recognize the future of medical journalism when we get to it, and what we are to do with it *when* we get it?

DR. PASTE, in closing.—I thank the members for their interest and lively discussion. I must remind you, of course, that in stating that the future is before us I am expressing only my own opinion, based on my own observations. It remains to be corroborated by other investigators.

THE CHAIRMAN.—This question is so important that I shall ask all the members to make careful notes concerning the possible beforeness of our future and report at the next annual meeting.

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