DOCTOR AND DOCTRESS.

That women are to constitute a just portion of the medical profession in this country is now an admitted fact. They have fought their fight; and although many of the staunchest of the old school have yet to see the day, the doctors still hold stoutly against the encroachment of women into that once male-only domain. It is a battle fought for the right of women to engage in the practice of medicine, a battle that has been long and arduous.

A venerable member who attempted to advocate the right of women to practice medicine, Dr. Daniel, of Illinois, who figured in the debate, was looked upon with some jealousy and distrust. It was his idea that the profession of medicine was not made for the purpose of governing the professional world, but to serve the needs of the sick.

The daily press is filled with discussions of the medical profession and the question of the status of women in it. The American Medical Association is not inferior to other professions in this respect. The press is to be held responsible for any "reckless assault" or "senseless tirade" upon the truth of the case.

The press is best that they may be held responsible. The medical profession is not inferior to other professions in any other respect, and we are far from wishing to testify that it was confined to one manly student.

There was an idea that the public was to be convinced of the claims of women when it could be done legitimately, but the doctor's idea of a woman's legitimate sphere is that she must not try to compete in the medical profession. The medical profession is not made for the purpose of governing the professional world, but to serve the needs of the sick.

The case, and our whole relation to it, are both of physical and mental dependence. This friendship is at the bottom quite as selfish as that which comes from the love of animals.
The American Medical Association, which demands recognition of the qualifications which their rules require for men, was opposed to giving women the same rights. Dr. Pallcn argues that it is a failure here, and always must be; and yet before he gets through he uses the following argument, which is an admission that it is a success; for he thus admits that there are a thousand women practicing medicine, who will demand recognition of the American Medical Association, with the qualifications which their rules require for men.

He said:

Pass such a resolution as this, and a thousand women about the country, practically speaking, connected with the female organization, will demand recognition from the American Medical Association, which means that a thousand female physicians will be disqualified for the lighter and steady hard labor in households, in mechanistic employment; and it would be hard to show that the professional spirit in one case is any higher than in the other.

We suppose women will always have to labor under some disabilities of sex. As to their becoming physicians, we had not supposed the case so strong in their favor till this orator of the American Medical Association gave the argument against them. The course for the profession to take is very plain. If women are deficient in reason, and cannot acquire the knowledge to fit themselves to practice medicine, the requirement of qualifications will exclude them from professional standing. The rule that women's dependency cannot learn pathology is too absurd and self-destructive for the profession to set up. If the profession excludes women for their sex, without regard to their medical qualifications, the exclusion will have no virtue in the community. Society will not recognize its right or reason. If, as we understand from Dr. Pallcn's reason, there are a thousand women now practicing medicine, who would eagerly be admitted if the Association should open the door to all who possessed the requisite medical knowledge, then it is too late for the associated males to keep the profession masculine, and their feeble effort only shows impotence.

The objections to the women are that they have not the same qualifications of men. There never has been a woman of the same qualifications as men. But this is no objection. The American Medical Association was not founded to exclude women; it was founded to furnish a place where men could be recognized. But the American Medical Association will not recognize its right or reason. It will have no virtue in the community. Society will not recognize its right or reason. If, as we understand from Dr. Pallcn's reason, there are a thousand women now practicing medicine, who would eagerly be admitted if the Association should open the door to all who possessed the requisite medical knowledge, then it is too late for the associated males to keep the profession masculine, and their feeble effort only shows impotence.

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