

Evans (J. P.)

POPULAR ADDRESS,

BEFORE THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF

EAST TENNESSEE,

BY J. P. EVANS, M. D.

TOGETHER WITH THE

RULES OF MEDICAL ETIQUET, &c.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PRINTED BY H. & I. E. BARRY,

1847.

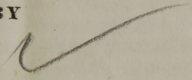


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POPULAR ADDRESS

REGISTERED OFFICE

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE

J. P. EVANS, M. D.

TOGETHER WITH

THE RULES OF MEDICAL ETHICS, &c.

AS PASSED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PRINTED BY H. W. BARKER

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE Publishing Committee of the Medical Society of East Tennessee was directed to prepare an Address to the Citizens of East Tennessee, setting forth the objects designed to be attained by the association. After consideration, that Committee is of the opinion that the Popular Address of J. P. Evans, M. D., says every thing to the people, which is at all calculated to awaken them from the lethargy in which they are indulging, and excite them to become sufficiently acquainted with the general basis of a medical education, to enable them to guard themselves against the cunning depravity of base empirics, and the presumptive boldness of ignorance and disqualification. No fact can be more apparent, from a moment's reflection, than that the well educated and judicious Physician can always obtain sufficient confidence to enable him honorably to support his condition in society; and, therefore, it must follow as a consequence, that no sinister, or purely selfish designs can be the impelling motive of those who have come forward, and extended their personal aid in the formation and support of this Society. But it must also be evident, that though the qualifications of the Physician are a certain passport to confidence, yet by these he alone, and the limited number, comparatively, of those who fall to his care, are benefited; others are still left to the merciless persecution of depraved quackery, or the haphazard measures of those who illustrate the truism that "*a little learning is a dangerous thing.*"

The Society then has one grand desire—the benefit of the people of East Tennessee. To attain this end, two objects are attempted. First—By associating a portion of those who are laboring under the opinion that they have reached the full statue of a man, in medical acquirements, with those who assiduously and constantly labor to the effect of self-improvement; and whose extended acquirements—however limited comparatively their acquirements may be—have convinced them of the great amount of labor yet to be expended before their beloved and honorable profession can be truly said to have approached near to the point of perfection. By this contact, the very vanity which before sustained them, will be so touched as to excite to a noble emulation, which can but be productive of much benefit to them individually; and being beneficial to them must, of necessity, be truly advantageous to the people who may fall under their care. Second—If possible so to enlighten the people that they may be better enabled than at present to judge of the amount of confidence which those who are candid-

ates for their favor, merit. Professor Duglison, of Philadelphia, has said that, "as a general rule, the best for estimating the abilities of the Physician by the unprofessional, is by examining into the character of his mind, his modes of reasoning, his degree of mental application, and his general qualifications." This, at a first view, has the appearance of being a good rule; but if examined will be discovered to lead to the most palpable errors in the choice of a Physician. In this country, more probably than in any other, is coincidence of judgment a criterion of intellectual ability; and where prejudices of a political and religious nature are so profound and insurmountable as they are here—under ordinary circumstances, the professional ability of physicians will have no weight with the political or sectarian partizan in his choice of the practitioner to whom is to be entrusted his own life, and the lives of his wife and children. Again—With the unprofessional, age presupposes experience, and experience aptness and perfection; a rule which is a dangerous fallacy, and which is not to be confided in, any more than the bold, confidential bearing of the smooth faced youth, recently clothed with the honors of the school.—However much he should be encouraged for the persevering energy which has crowned him with the distinctive title, meritoriously his own, yet he should not have at once the unbounded confidence, which is (so unwisely sometimes) reposed in experience. What rule then must the people follow? To this, the Committee answer, it is the desire of the Society, by holding its meetings at different places, to enlighten the people upon medical subjects—to show them the fine drawn—and necessarily so—reasons, which determine physicians in concluding—and upon which conclusion depends the continued existence of the sick—and thus bring them understandingly to consider, when necessity demands the attention of a physician.

Having thus briefly set forth the objects of the Society, the Committee feel that any arguments adduced to prove them objects worthy of the most strenuous efforts, would be doubting the good sense of those to whom these remarks are addressed; and the Committee, therefore, simply add their hope that those whose best interests are so deeply involved in the efforts now being put forth for the permanent establishment of a "Medical Society" in East Tennessee, will themselves contribute as much as possible to the accomplishment of an object so desirable to us all.

The Etiquet which is published with this pamphlet, sets forth certain principles which are to govern the intercourse of Physicians and patients; and it is hoped those who may read it, will so impress these principles upon their minds, and the minds of all who may come within the sphere of their influence, that all—the rich and the poor—the high and the low—the lettered and the unlettered—may be enabled to distinguish between those in the medical profession who maintain professional dignity and courtesy, in their intercourse with each other, and those who are guilty every day, in that intercourse, of the most flagrant violations of the rules of gentlemanly as well as professional deportment.

DR. EVANS' ADDRESS.

DELIVERED AT THE SESSION OF THE SOCIETY, HELD
IN JONESBOROUGH, MAY 6TH & 7TH, 1847.

ALTHOUGH this is the first time I have had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Medical Society, yet I have ardently desired the success of the enterprise; and have not only desired it, but have endeavored, in some measure to promote it. I visited Knoxville in December, 1844, for the purpose of aiding in the organization of a Medical Society—the attempt failed; but I had the pleasure of calling the attention of the physicians of East Tennessee to the subject, through a publication which appeared in the Knoxville papers. The object was consummated in the month of May following.

The subject of a Medical Society in East Tennessee is one well worthy the attention and co-operation of every physician in the land; because it is by united efforts that every important subject of general concern is fully established and sustained; and, because every practitioner of medicine should be a philanthropist; in fact the very nature of the science, (with its practice,) is admirably calculated to awaken sentiments of benevolence and philanthropy in the breast of every man whose mind has been suitably impressed with proper views and principles in relation to his duties, both as a man, and as a member of the medical faculty: no ordinary degree of depravity can wholly resist its burning influences.

Taking this view of the case, we are led to the adop-

tion of every honorable plan, (and no other would serve the purpose,) which reason and experience teach us is calculated to increase the usefulness of the members of the profession generally.

I am aware that a large number of respectable practitioners have not yet come forward in support of the Medical Society of East Tennessee; and there may be some belonging to the *elite* of the profession, whose claims are far superior to the humble pretensions of him who now has the honor of addressing you, that may for some time to come, stand aloof, and withhold their aid in building up the society; but I feel confident that such persons will, upon a proper investigation of the matter, eventually give us their valuable assistance. As far as my observations extend, I find a large majority of physicians are in favor of the association; and if we can succeed, by legitimate means, in gaining a high reputation for the institution, so that its diploma may be looked upon as honorable, and worth the toil of preparing to obtain it, then we may expect to accomplish a wholesome change in the moral and intellectual condition of the profession in East Tennessee.

One of the purposes for which we have now met, is the devising and adopting of such means as will render the society most effective in subserving the purposes for which it was formed. Its great aims are the elevation of the profession, and the mitigation of the sufferings of humanity. These two objects are so closely interwoven that they are dependent on each other, and cannot be separated without destruction to both; for the acquisition and advancement of science—both in physic and ethics, will inevitably lead to the elevation of the medical profession, and to the mitigation of human sufferings. We should bear in mind, the fact that by scrupulously adhering to a system of morals founded on true principles, in regard to their conduct toward each other, physicians not only preserve order and harmony among themselves; but likewise diffuse a salutary influence around them, and increase the

tone of honorable sentiment throughout the social spheres in which they move.

In the first place, we should endeavor to ascertain what causes contribute most powerfully in deranging, depressing, and retarding our profession: by avoiding *remote* causes disease is prevented; and by removing *exciting* causes, depressed energies and deranged functions are often restored.

It is not my intention to pursue the subject throughout all its ramifications, although it is worthy of the fullest and most minute inquiry; on the present occasion I will only glance hastily at the most prominent points. In the investigation of this matter, it will be necessary to hold up to view some things, which, to the high-minded, enlightened, and philanthropic, are exceedingly disagreeable in the contemplation, and which serve to depreciate the general character of the faculty.

Nothing, perhaps, has done more towards spreading and sustaining quackery in physic, than the false estimate placed upon the skill of *doctors by nature*—certain wonder-working practitioners, who by *lucky hits*, have performed cures almost (or quite) miraculous, in the opinion of those who arrogate to themselves the right of judging in matters of which they are profoundly ignorant. Such men often boast of being doctors by nature, and sometimes affect to hold in contempt all reading or study, or other suitable preparation; and strange as it may seem, they frequently acquire great celebrity; but this factitious fame seldom lasts long; like an *ignis fatuus*, it rapidly fades; yet, as fast as one sinks into oblivion another rises up in its stead.—Thus we have a rapid succession of doctors of meteoric brilliancy, whose scintillations, though evanescent, scatter pestilential influences around them, which destroy both physically and morally!

With the great mass of the people, no subject is so little understood as the science of medicine; they know nothing of its principles, and have no proper conceptions in relation to it. They suppose it consists of

specifics and *recipes*; and, that the man whose memory can retain the largest number, is the best physician.— This general ignorance of the principles of our profession, lays the foundation of a prejudice against scientific attainment in medicine. Among another class we even find a spirit of opposition existing to all learning which goes beyond the most slender stock that may be acquired at the lowest grade of schools.— Such a contracted state of the human mind presents a very serious obstacle to the advancement of truth; for no matter how well a physician may qualify himself for the discharge of his duties, among such people he will not be properly appreciated, and the ignorant pretender will prevail. Thus, in many instances, scientific men receive no encouragement to pursue their studies and observations, (for physicians must study and observe all their lives,) and the consequence is, the profession deteriorates. Those good citizens who are opposed to learning, seem delighted when one of their number throws aside the restraints of conscience, tramples upon all rules by which a knowledge of a profession can be acquired, and suddenly blazes forth a star of the first magnitude in the medical firmament. Perhaps he acquires a high reputation during the prevalence of a mild epidemic, by magnifying the importance of cases, when, in fact, there was no danger, and nature alone would have overcome the malady; or he may have had a case of *fracture*, and claimed the credit of re-uniting the bone and saving the patient's limb and life, when it was only a simple fracture, and needed but little attention, and in which, in all probability, his cataplasms retarded the process of reparation; or he may be a *cancer doctor*, and pronounce every small tumor or ill-conditioned ulcer in a large community, to be a cancer; or peradventure he may be a *conjuror*, or kind of *sleight-of-hand doctor*, and remove diseases by *hocus-pocus* or *legerdemain*; or if none of these, he may affect a large degree of eccentricity and mystery, and in this way gain confidence; no matter how, he has

acquired the reputation, and may triumphantly desolate the land in the face of all opposition.

It may be asked, what criterion have the people in discriminating between the pretender and the true physician? I answer, that the opportunities which have been enjoyed for the acquisition of correct knowledge, the decision of a medical school or society, or the opinion of at least one respectable physician of established reputation, are the only available tests.— Among the regular faculty, there may be some distinguished by their genius; others by strong judgment; and others by a plain honest mediocrity; all of them respectable, and fit to be depended on as physicians.— No matter how dull a man may be in point of intellect, (provided he be not an idiot,) if his opportunities have been ample for becoming acquainted with the science of medicine, he is far more trust-worthy in the management of disease, than the man who has undergone no suitable preparation, although he may possess the intellect and genius of Napoleon Bonaparte.

This evil is a source of great injury to the medical profession, and of incalculable mischief to mankind, and should engage the attention of philanthropists generally. The people should be admonished and enlightened on the subject; convinced of the absurdity of a man being born a physician, or of becoming one without suitable preparation by the adoption of reasonable means for a reasonable length of time. But circumstances in such cases are often beyond our control; we cannot expect to extirpate the evil entirely; we can only mitigate it; for, (although the proposition may appear paradoxical,) the experience of the world goes to prove, that on the subjects of which men are the most ignorant, they will often be the most credulous; and there are always individuals standing ready to create, increase, and take advantage of credulity.

Other things now claim my attention.

It is much to be feared that some young gentlemen commence the study of medicine "with an eye single"

to the acquisition of wealth, without having a proper sense or knowledge of the duties, responsibilities, and legitimate aims which should govern those who take upon themselves the treatment of disease. According to the plainest principles of *justice*, a mechanic should be well acquainted with the trade he professes to have learned, and from the operations of which he expects to derive a support—and perhaps wealth: the same rule should apply to physicians; but the moral responsibilities of the practitioner of medicine go far beyond those of the mechanic; for the former has the comfort and lives of hundreds or thousands of human beings in his hands! But unfortunately there is too often a departure from sound principles, which are replaced by a low selfishness, that shrouds the soul in moral darkness, and hinders it from perceiving and imbibing those exalted and ennobling principles—justice, humanity, benevolence, and philanthropy, which should live and abide in the bosom of every member of the profession. A few months' devotion to the study of medicine is deemed a sufficient preparation, and the young Hippocrates struts forth with a wonderful degree of importance, fully “armed and equipped,” particularly if he have a smattering of *Latin*, to commence operations—otherwise, to *kill* or *cure*, according to circumstances. He speedily acquires a large and inexhaustible stock of impudence and low cunning, and during the remainder of his life, or his medical career, studies stratagem instead of science. I do not assert that such cases are numerous in our land; but that such are to be found cannot be controverted.

Others are desirous of *fame*; but not having sufficient industry, perseverance, and fortitude to undergo the usual toil, take a nearer *cut*, and by boasting, swaggering, and *various other means*, contrive to have their names sounded far and wide as eminent physicians.—It is probable that every enlightened medical practitioner may be more or less ambitious of distinction; yet every one with a well ordered mind, will sedulously

avoid creating false impressions on the minds of the people, and will hold in scorn and abhorrence the idea of creating by *trickery*, a reputation to which his merits do not entitle him. The ambitious, yet honorable physician, will strive to *deserve* the confidence and approbation of the people, by maturing and extending his knowledge of the science of medicine and all branches of learning which may have a bearing upon it, and by inculcating and practising a system of ethics exalted and dignified in all its bearings. Every member of "the healing art" should have expanded conceptions of its duties and tendencies: it is a high calling, and its followers should never stoop from its lofty eminence.

We cannot conceal the fact, that the medical ethics of East Tennessee need a higher tone; the moral code of the profession seems to be lost sight of in the rush after money and a factitious fame. Every medical man of moderate experience, has occasionally perceived, with painful concern—with a deep sense of humiliation—that if not all, at least a large portion of the people, believe physicians to be inimical to each other. The idea is entertained, that to successfully flatter and cajole one practitioner, the surest way to succeed is to depreciate another—particularly his competitor. What has led to this humiliating condition? Doubtless it has been induced, in a great measure, by the minds of practitioners not having been suitably impressed, at a proper time, with the true aims, responsibilities, and duties of the science and practice of medicine—being influenced by mercenary views alone. Such views will not sustain and advance our profession. Permit me to give you a professional illustration

Muscular contractility—a principle inherent in all muscular tissues, can be excited to action by friction, galvanism, &c.; but these, although sometimes valuable auxiliaries, are artificial stimuli, and only serve in a limited number of cases, and to a limited extent, as substitutes for its natural stimulus—the *nervous fluid*. In like manner the science of medicine cannot be suffi-

ciently and permanently elevated by all the power and influence which the desire of wealth can create: it needs a more refined and potent stimulus. Amidst all our toils and perplexities, it is sweet to reflect that we are *useful* members of society; that we are instrumental in mitigating the sufferings of our fellow beings; that we have endeavored by all the means in our reach, to increase our usefulness by augmenting our knowledge; that we have restored many a wretched family to joy and comparative happiness; and, that we have never, by extortion, inflicted a deeper injury than disease could do. Such reflections will sustain us in many a trying moment through life, and console us in some degree in our passage through "the valley and shadow of death." Truly it requires noble and exalted motives to sustain, advance, and dignify science. Another cause may be an over-weening vanity, or self-conceit, which leads one to think himself superior to his contemporaries, and to criticise with asperity the practice of others. He loses sight of one of the cardinal virtues—charity, which would cause him to exercise leniency towards his brethren, and rather pity than condemn the frailties of finite minds. To such I would respectfully recommend the practice of noting down, at least for a short period of time, with correctness and impartiality, every professional blunder they may make, and I venture to affirm, that but few of them will have a blush to spare for the deficiencies of their brother practitioners.

It is too often the case, that a rivalry between two physicians, consists in cultivating a popular department, and the adoption of low stratagems which would mantle the cheeks of the most inveterate horse-jockey in the land with shame, were he detected in them.—Let no one suppose I would have physicians to be rude or uncouth in their manners; I would have them to be gentlemen in all respects; but when politeness degenerates into down-right demagogueism, and is then practised from *ungenerous* motives, to say the least, it is

beneath the dignity of the true physician, and cannot be too severely censured.

A competition between two members of the profession, should consist in faithfully, industriously, and honorably performing the duties of their calling.—These duties are numerous, but may be reduced to a few heads; attending on the sick faithfully; reading, studying, and observing, with a view to the advancement of science; and, by *doing unto others as you would have them do unto you*.

During a physician's professional intercourse with the people, many circumstances, attributable neither to ignorance nor a culpable negligence, but to accident alone, may transpire, and create a prejudice against him. Such cases are not of unfrequent occurrence; and other practitioners have been known to increase the "hue and cry" against a brother physician thus situated; and this manner of acting towards a collaborator seems to be considered right, by many, and the actors are looked upon as honorable men!

It is not a matter of wonder, when such a state of things prevails, that a large number of people—perhaps a majority—believe physicians to be inimical to each other; and of course the idea immediately follows, that in becoming practitioners of medicine they were actuated by mercenary motives alone; and, to find the way to the *good graces* of one, the surest method is to detract from the reputation of another.

An infraction of moral principle by medical men, is a violation of medical ethics; for the latter are moral laws applied to the conduct of physicians; without an observance of such rules, we will inevitably sink into a low, degraded condition—be looked upon as *money sharks*, or *medical pirates*—worse than the most hardened black-legs, who seldom devour those of the same stamp as long as others can be found to prey upon. I dislike the term *competitor*, when applied to physicians in the sense in which it seems to be understood by the most of the people: they ought to be brethren; for they

all belong to a profession of mercy and benevolence.—They should all *live* by their calling, and perform their duties with a good conscience. Their responsibilities are of vast weight and magnitude, and he who does not to a considerable degree comprehend them, and endeavor to cancel them by faithful performances, cannot justly be considered a worthy member of the faculty. Let us give more tone to our moral code, and occupy the high position which men who have the health and lives of thousands of human beings in their hands, should have, and the profession of medicine will recover its legitimate and exalted sphere, and the smiles of Providence will attend us.

RULES OF ETIQUET,

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PHYSICIANS IN THEIR INTERCOURSE WITH EACH OTHER, AND WITH THEIR PATIENTS.

THE intention of all those rules governing the intercourse of physicians with one another, commonly called Medical Etiquet, is to seek the patient's good, and to preserve harmony among the members of the medical profession. So far from these time-honored rules being arbitrary and unmeaning, perplexing and inconvenient, they are based on the principles of Medical Ethics, and are indispensable in giving those principles a practical application.

If the code of rules called Medical Etiquet be not strictly observed, the character and professional reputation of the best physician is at the mercy of every intriguing, dishonorable charlatan who may dub himself a *doctor*; and what is much worse, the private animosities of rival physicians would find their way into the sick chamber, which the proper observance of Medical Etiquet would totally exclude.

RULE I. No physician shall, directly, or by innuendo, criticise or censure the practice of any other physician before any person or persons not qualified to be a judge in the case. Physicians may criticise the practice of one another, when they are to themselves, and no person present or in hearing who is not a physician; because it is presumed that they speak before those who are judges of the correctness or incorrectness of the criticism, and that the criticism itself, instead of doing harm, may elicit information. Thus A may say to B, that C bleeds too much, or uses some remedy in

cases not appropriate. B being himself a physician is qualified to be a judge in the case, and can correct A if his criticism be not well founded; and if well founded, he can call the attention of C to the subject, and thus be the means of correcting an improper practice; thereby benefiting the public; the criticism, however, should be entirely confined to the physicians, and in no case permitted to reach the public ear, not even the most intimate friend, relative, or acquaintance, who is not a member of the medical faculty.

RULE II. Every patient has a right to choose his own physician; to have a first, a second and a third choice, and every thing which tends to deprive him of this right is empirical and contrary to the rules of Medical Etiquet. It is always presumed that the physician first sent for in any case of illness, is the first choice of the patient. If absent, or incapable of attending to the call, the second or third choice is always to give way to the first, as soon as the first is ready to take charge of the patient. In such case consultation fees are not to be charged by either physician, unless the patient requires the attendance of both. It is the duty of the physician who may be the second or third choice of the patient, to inform the patient's first choice of what he has prescribed, either verbally or by writing, and to give up the case to the patient's first choice or family physician.

RULE III. Surgical and obstetrical cases are not governed by the same rule which regulates medical practice so called. In all surgical cases where the family physician or first choice cannot, at the time, be had, and any other physician be called in who operates, or dresses a wound, the physician thus called should attend to the case throughout, the first choice acting jointly with him if the patient requires it. The observance of this rule assures to every patient who has met with an accident, prompt attention, and accords to every operator the privilege of superintending his own work, and of personally seeing that the best course of treatment

that the case admits of is instituted to insure the success of his operation, and the speedy recovery of the patient, free from deformity or lameness—otherwise, the family physician, from ignorance and design, might derange the dressing or apparatus and injure the character of the physician who operated or first dressed the wound.

The same rule, and for the same reasons, applies in the practice of medicine proper, in all those cases where the second choice of the patient has brought on salivation, made a mistake, in giving the wrong medicine, or inflicted any accidental injury on the patient; such as hurting the arm by bleeding, or making a bad ulcer by blistering, &c. In all such cases the physician who is responsible for the injury has the privilege of seeing that the best course of treatment is adopted to remedy the evil which the case admits of; but he is not at liberty to charge for his services, unless the accidental injury be owing to his directions being disregarded.

RULE IV. No physician shall give his services to a patient who refuses to accord to the physician who attended him, the privileges mentioned in Rule III.

RULE V. Every patient shall have the privilege of calling in any member of the faculty to see him in consultation, whom he may select, and the attending physician shall not oppose his choice unless he fixes on some one who is known to violate the rules of Medical Etiquet. This rule, however, does not deprive the attending physician of the privilege of suggesting a consulting physician of his own choice. But if the patient has a decided preference for any particular individual, he is to be gratified and not opposed.

RULE VI. In consultations, the patient shall be examined in presence of both physicians, who shall afterwards retire and agree upon a prescription, and deliver it either verbally or in writing, to the patient's friend or nurse, in presence of each other, and then retire.—It is not in order for the consulting physician to hold any private consultation with the patient, or to deliver

any opinion in regard to his case which is not concurred in by the attending physician. What is said in consultation is to be regarded as private, and not to be divulged. If the patient recovers, both are to share in the credit of the cure, and if he dies, both are to bear a portion of the blame.

RULE VII. In cases of emergency, where the attending physician is absent, and any other be called to see the patient, the latter violates no rule of Medical Etiquet in prescribing for the patient, if any additional prescription be necessary, but he is to inform the attending physician, either verbally or in writing, of what he has done, with the reason of his prescription. In no case is he to intimate to the patient or his friends that the attending physician has been treating the case improperly, or is mistaken in regard to the nature of it. If he believes so, it is his duty to express his sentiments to the attending physician, who can remedy the evil, and not to the patient or his friends, who have neither the means of judging nor of acting.

RULE VIII. Medical knowledge is not private, but public property. It consists of the accumulated experience of all ages and countries, enlightened, guided and directed by the whole circle of sciences. Hence it is contrary to the rules of Medical Etiquet, and highly empirical for any physician to pretend that he treats diseases differently from other members of the faculty. If he does so, he is an empiric. If he does not do so, he is a deceiver, and acts disingenuously, by claiming as his own, in his individual capacity, what belongs to the whole profession, and is alike open to all. If he has actually discovered a better method of treating any disease than the world knew before, he is morally and professionally bound to make it known to his medical brethren.

RULES FOR THE ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

THE third article of the Constitution is in the following words :

“Any physician of good moral character and respectable medical attainments, known as such to the members of the society, on signing the Constitution, himself or by proxy, and paying one dollar annually may become a *senior member*. Any one wishing to become a *junior member* of the society, upon presenting a thesis on some medical subject, or being examined by a committee appointed for that purpose, on the branches required, and paying one dollar annually, shall be received as such, a list of whose names shall be kept by the Recording Secretary.”

In addition to this, a resolution was passed at the session of the society held in Knoxville, in May, 1846, which prescribes that when an individual is proposed for senior membership, the member proposing him shall state, “in confidence,” all he knows respecting the applicant’s character and qualifications, and if these cannot be vouched for by some other members who are also acquainted with the applicant, the application shall be laid over until the next meeting; and a committee appointed to inquire into the applicant’s standing and qualifications as a physician; and when the committee’s report shall have been made, if the candidate shall then receive two negative votes, he is rejected as a *senior*, though he may then be received as a *junior member*, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present; and all elections for membership shall be by ballot, senior members alone voting.

Some discussion took place at the last session, in regard to the *privileges of junior members*; the result of which was that they were permitted to vote on all subjects except the admission and trial of members—senior and junior. A committee was appointed, however, to inquire into this subject, and report definitely, at the next session, as to what privileges should be granted to this class of members.

OFFICERS

OF THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF EAST TENNESSEE.

Elected for 12 months from the first Thursday in May, 1847.

PRESIDENT—J. P. EVANS, of Claiborne County.

VICE PRESIDENTS—S. B. BOWLES, of Marion County.

T. T. YOUNG, of Washington County.

COR. SECRETARY—FRANK. A. RAMSEY, of Knox County.

RECORDING SECRETARY—B. R. STRONG, of Knox County.

TREASURER—WM. R. SEVIER, of Washington County.



