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THE MIGRATION OF STUDENTS¹

A PLEA FOR THE INDIVIDUAL IN EDUCATION

THE chairman of our judicial council, Dr. Means, in a recent address on “The Relations of the Medical Colleges in the Matter of the Migration of Students,” has stated that these relations should be adjusted on the basis of the Golden Rule. With this I heartily agree. I would, however, call attention to the wording of the Golden Rule, “Do unto others.” This seems to imply that our relationships are multiple rather than duplex.

There is hardly a problem in ethics to be settled on the basis of “Thou” and “I” alone. No case of migrating students should be considered from the standpoint of the colleges alone. In every instance the public or state has a claim on our consideration, for we are the servants of the state in the making of physicians.

We are also in a peculiar and intimate degree responsible to the student himself. We take his money; we take what is more valuable than money, his time. We modify his whole life. To take out the human element from our work; to claim that the student acts always of his own free will; to make our colleges by inflexible rules mere mechanisms for grinding out as doc-

¹Read before the Association of American Medical Colleges, March 1, 1912. Readers of this paper should bear in mind the legal restrictions on medical educational institutions, which other departments of education are not subject to. These cover such topics as length and number of yearly sessions required for graduation, admission, advanced standing, credit from other institutions, etc. It should also be noted that medical schools have on their faculties numerous professors who are primarily in medical practise and only incidentally acting as teachers.