

## MEDICINE & MORALITY

The traditional family physician, nowadays an endangered species, had to be a good person in order to be a good practitioner: he had to be compassionate, understanding, charitable, and honest, and he was on call 24 hours a day. His contemporary successor is more dependent upon medical technology than upon moral feelings. We expect him to be competent above all and, in fact, he is usually more effective than his forerunners. On the other hand we do not expect him to be anything else than a businessman more interested in the stock market than in his patients or the progress of medicine. Our blind faith in the traditional practitioner has been replaced with mistrust, and the practice of sending gifts to the good doctor has been abandoned in favor of malpractice suits.

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