

many lawyers, too many physicians, and a short time since I read a sober article in a religious magazine in which the argument was vigorously set forth that there were altogether too many ministers.

In view of all these calamitous forebodings, I have sometimes found myself in sore distress over the probable outcome of everything human, and yet when I look over the history of the world and compare the social conditions of to-day with those of the good old times, when nothing seems to have been overcrowded, I am quite content to take my chance in a crowded age.

The simple fact is that the conditions of life are rapidly changing, and there are some people who cannot seem to keep pace with the change. To prove that, after all, there is very little real overcrowding, I do not need to go outside of our own profession in search of facts. If it be true that there are many dentists who are not fully occupied, it is also true that there are many who are working harder to-day than dentists have ever worked in the history of the world. If it be true that fees are lower to-day than ever, it is also true that the fees are immensely higher than ever. There never was a time in the history of dentistry when such high fees were confidently asked and cheerfully paid as at present. We hear of dental fee-bills to-day that would have staggered the public a generation ago. I have on my appointment book at the present time a patient who recently paid one of my colleagues a fee of \$5,000 for dental service, and paid it most willingly. These things prove at least that if there is a "pitiable overcrowding" in the lower ranks of dentistry, there is assuredly "plenty of room at the top." In fact, as an acute observer remarked to me a few years ago, "there is more room at the top than at the bottom."

And the real trouble in the whole matter is this: That there are too many men in the profession who are prone to content themselves with mediocrity of attainment, instead of throwing their whole life and energy into such advancement as will elevate them to a plane with the highest and best of that which a progressive profession has to offer.

It is this one central thought that I bring to you young men here this evening. If you drop into a rut on going out to practise and settle down with the assurance that your chief work is done because your diploma is earned, then I predict that you will sooner or later join the ranks of the overcrowded, and help to hold the profession down to the level of mediocrity. But if you cultivate the true professional spirit, which embodies the idea that a man's duty is never done short of the highest possible attainment in the service of humanity, if you so study and labor and advance that your patients will thereby receive the benefit of the best that progressive dentistry can furnish, then I am safe in promising you a