

or can only reply in monosyllables to subjects introduced by his patient, he not only suffers himself from that unpleasant sensation of inferiority, but forces his patient to regret having spoken.

By endeavoring to acquire a fund of general information, these mutual *contretemps* will be avoided, and while the works of our hands may be valued, the workings of our minds may not be despised.

The supposition that men are less sensitive to gentle treatment than women is entirely a delusion, as is ably pointed out by Professor Lombroso (in the *Fornightly Review* for this month), who, not content with claiming for them equal sensibility to pain, declares that he has proved by experiment that their sufferings under the dentist's hands are far more intense.

A good story is told of an American who in answer to the sympathetic enquiry of the dentist, "Am I giving you much pain?" replied, "I can stand the pain in my teeth, if you will kindly take the corner of your cuff out of my left eye."

It may have been the same operator who, when burnishing a gold filling was surprised to see large tears coursing down the cheeks of his small patient; on seeking an explanation of the woe which so harassed the youthful soul, he discovered that he was with the hand-piece pressing tightly the boy's lips against his teeth, and was himself the engine to what Sam Weller called "the fellar's waterworks."

In the management of the "eternal enigma," as a recent writer has termed the fair sex, there is so much both to do and to avoid, that I cannot attempt to treat of the subject fully to-night. But a few of the most important points it may be beneficial to touch on.

It is with this class of patients that a cultivated ease of manner and sympathetic bearing weigh so much; it is they who recommend a dentist for his good chair-side manner; it is they who judge of the work done by the bearing of the man who does it.

To be able to reassure a lady patient as soon as she enters the room is a great step gained, and a dentist who realizes this soon reaps the reward of his knowledge.

One of the greatest difficulties a dentist must study to overcome is so to hold his left arm round the patient's head as not to disarrange her hair. It is a thing to which, for obvious reasons, a lady strongly objects, and such awkward incidents as the following—which the relator informed me actually happened in his own practise—may occur.

His patient, a dignified aristocrat, happened at the time of her visit to be wearing a false plait, and in the movement of arm round her head he had the misfortune to detach this artificial appendage. The chagrin of both dentist and patient may be better imagined than described. He never saw her face again.

In the use of perfume in the surgery and on one's hands care