

there are no things so minute as to be small or insignificant, which concern the weal or woe of mankind.

True, your horizon is in a sense circumscribed and your field of operation limited, but if your work is to that of the medico as is the art of the engraver or etcher to the role of the painter, yet there is room for that genius which is the mastery of minutiae, and call for concentration of energy and of the senses, that is especially trying to hand and eye, and, indeed, brain.

The dental surgeon often requires pluck and vim of high order in the *mouth* of difficulties, and there can be no better test and example of honest work than he gives, with the temptation to stop short of the best in order to lessen the present suffering of those who would be the first to upbraid him for his neglect of duty.

But it would be an unfair and narrow view to limit your functions to mere mechanical work. The public cannot know, and the medical profession, I fear, have not rightly appreciated that, though, as in the case of the doctor himself, much that occupies him is, so to speak, of a routine nature, the dentist has to be prepared at the outset and always for the rarer and complicated cases that demand judgment as well as skill; as, for example, in dealing with the not infrequent irregularities of the jaws and teeth, where the influence of heredity and of the evolution of family types has to be gauged long before age has solved the problem. Then the *facial expression* may be marred for life by ignoring the influence of the teeth upon the action of the lips and mouth; and not a little discretion is needed in improving the contour of the jaws, deciding as to the sacrifice of teeth, not to speak of the care and knowledge required in neglected cases of so-called alveolar abscess, or misdirected and non-erupted molars, especially the "wisdom" teeth, now known to be the cause of inveterate neuralgia, or of obscure and dissecting suppurative processes, or of chronic spasm of the masseters. Then, in addition to the study of the embryology and evolution of the teeth, the dentist requires, of course, to be familiar with the influence of heredity, of faulty hygiene, and of various constitutional diseases, and of the reciprocal relations of teeth and health and health and teeth. He has to avoid the danger of all specialists, the ignoring of the greater in the less; and while it is not his duty to treat systemic causes of dental disease, it is his prerogative to teach hygiene, and to act as the coadjutor of the family physician by hints and suggestions, both timely and helpful; and also at times to give him the aid of his special skill in diagnosis or treatment. The dental surgeon has not warrant to play the role of physician or general surgeon, but I opine, he will in the near future be a closer ally of both in efforts to conserve those valuable factors in the well-being of the human economy, whose importance is still underrated. Medicine owes not a little to Dentistry, as Prof.