

world over, constitute a drag on the profession ; but it would seem that Canada had more than her share of them. The vast majority of the profession in the Dominion have no membership in any dental society, nor do they seem to have any inclination to fraternize with their fellow practitioners. Much missionary work is needed here, but, of course, in many instances the case is hopeless. Time, in her beneficent designs, will do more than anything else to remedy the matter with some of these men, and, meanwhile, I do not feel like quarrelling too much with them. They are their own worst enemies.

But I have a word for another class of men who, I have every reason to believe, may be benefited by advice. These are mostly the young men who have graduated in recent years, and whose bent of mind is usually in favor of professional progress. They are well educated, to begin with, and education in an individual ordinarily stimulates a desire for research. Probably these men constitute the majority of the membership in the societies, and they are the main hope of the profession in Canada.

But from some serious defect many of them do not seem to realize what successful society work means. They do not yet know how to run dental societies. They allow matters of too trivial a nature to keep them away from the meetings. When a dentist becomes a member of a dental society, and signs the constitution and by-laws, he places himself under an obligation to forward the best interests of the society at all times, even at the expense of his own personal comfort and inclination. There are two objects in joining a society. One is to get benefit for oneself, the other to benefit others and elevate the profession. The latter of these is too often entirely ignored. Selfishness is as great an evil in society work as elsewhere, and while few members would bow their heads to a charge of being selfish, yet in point of fact, they are selfish when they allow their own individual convenience to interfere with their duties to the society.

I have watched somewhat closely the average attendance on dental meetings during my visits to Ontario, and seldom do I find anything like a representative membership present. I have attended two consecutive meetings of the principal city society of the Province. At one meeting there were eight or ten members present, at the other there were two members of the society, with two