

presence has always been like a benediction to the younger members. While we sympathize deeply with Dr. Lewis in his loss of a life-long helpmate and companion, we must also congratulate him upon the memories of gracious womanhood, of which nothing can rob him.

Such a calm and peaceful journey on the down hill side of life is what we are desiring for our wives and daughters, and that they may have it, let us bear our share of social and ethical duties, and not only as an association, but as individual members of our chosen profession, declare for the *best* on all of the burning questions of the day, at the same time that we are earnestly striving to reach the dentist's ideal; the time when the dental office shall be shorn of its terrors, when extraction and artificial teeth shall be unknown because we shall have mastered the theory of decay, and painful and protracted operations shall be known no more forever, because such operations as are necessary shall be painless in fact as well as in theory.

THE COUNTRY DENTIST.*

By DR. J. A. PEARSON, Barton, Vt.

One of the questions which confront the country dentist is how to make his practice pay him. If he has entered the profession with the one idea that he can get a living easier than in some other way and looks at the business wholly from a commercial standpoint, he is likely to be one it is not pleasant to practise beside.

The sphere of the country dentist to a great extent is that of a pioneer or missionary. When work is being done for less than good conscientious honest work can reasonably be done for, the quality of the work is quite likely to deteriorate with the price. I can see no reason why the country dentist should not and can not receive a proper remuneration for his services, provided he is up with the times and the community in which he is located appreciates and understands the advantages derived from dentistry. It must be borne in mind, however, that many of us are practising in localities so situated we seldom receive a call from another dentist, or come in contact with others in the profession, thus losing the stimulus generated by social intercourse and interchange of thought with one another, therefore we must make a greater effort to keep in touch with the times or we will fall short of what we might be. It is discouraging to plod along year after year in a community which, as a whole, are ignorant of the advantages derived from our profession, only so far as to relieve them of an aching tooth by

* Read before Vermont State Dental Society.