

improvements and investing it with unforeseen beauties. We have not to chisel cold unyielding marble, but our matter is living flesh and our product an animate thought, a glowing beauty; for though beauty may dwell in mountain, tree, and landscape, its highest throne is in the face of man, and he who removes obstructions to its appearance is performing a service next to the creation itself.

Speech, one of the highest dowries of man, sometimes becomes defective or lost, and so comes within our work to restore. If it be a worthy thing to unstop the ears of the deaf or unseal the eyes of the blind surely our work in bringing back a man's departed powers of utterance is no less praiseworthy. Great, then, is our glory if we can bring back to man the power and pleasure of communicating his thoughts to his fellowmen, of moving multitudes by his eloquence, and with the highest exercise of language, of audibly praising him who gave to man a mouth and speech and wisdom.

In the work of dental associations we have been too slack and slow to recognize the advantage of such organizations. On leaving college we are very liable to settle down and depend on our stored knowledge to carry us through with the work year after year, apparently ignoring the fact that new ideas are being advanced, and new methods, appliances, etc., constantly brought out. We read our journals, but though the society discussions are taken verbatim they have lost the force and meaning that their author gave them; besides, many thoughts are given that do not reach the journals, and methods, appliances and ideas presented between the numbers of the programme that are too valuable to lose. Go to the society meetings for the good of the cause, to acquire all you can, and to give to the profession what new things you have learned yourself. The sooner, in general, we realize the necessity and advantage of societies and their work, the sooner will the profession reach that point of enlightenment and free interchange of thoughts and ideas that is required for its true advancement. Some of us may feel that because we do not read papers, lead or take part in the discussions, or conduct a clinic, that we are no help, and might as well remain in our office during the days of meeting. But for bringing out the best and most good of the meeting we must have those who are attentive hearers, good questioners and debaters. Next to a good speaker is a good listener. Yet, apart from this loss which we individually may sustain by our absence from the society meetings, there is the loss to the profession, in withholding from the fraternity all those little points and methods which have come up in the experiences of each individual, to bridge over the difficulties which formerly stood in the path, and which, if told to others, would be hailed as friends to lighten the darkness of those who have experienced the same difficulties, discouragements, and disappointments.