

members met at the office of Dr. L. D. Walter, to witness the clinical operations by Drs. Fowler and Chittenden, which occupied the time till sometime past the hour to which the Association adjourned.

At 11 o'clock, the Association was called to order by the President, who announced the next subject in order for discussion to be "Improvements in Operative Dentistry. Dr. J. L. Requa, Essayist."

Dr. Requa then read the following essay :

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

The field before the professional dentist for doing good to his fellow man is broad. To him who makes the best interests of his patients his study, the preservation of the natural teeth must be his highest aim. The truth is constantly held up before him that his best efforts in art are but poor substitutes for the natural organs, and it is not mainly so with the inferior class of the profession but it is a fact that the higher a man stands in its ranks, and the greater his attainments in science and art, the plainer this truth appears to him, and the greater his efforts to put off the evil day of artificial teeth, and to preserve to his patients the usefulness and comfort of the natural ones. Persevering study to accomplish this has resulted within a few past years in improved materials, and methods of operating, and many improvements in instruments and appliances, to be found within arms length of the operating chair. It is not the province of this paper to detail the merits of all these improvements, nor can it be presumed that I am able to do so.

It is for the discussion of this subject that we have met here to-day, and if each one will speak of what he knows, we may all learn something. Let each one have something to say, if it is nothing more than to ask a question or tell us of some failure, for it is possible for us to learn from others faults.

The time has passed when as one dentist met another, "No Admittance" was posted over his laboratory door, and even over his mouth as plain as actions could speak. We have found that by being sociable nothing is lost, and always something gained by a liberal exchange of ideas.

Very little improvement has been made in material for filling teeth except that of the coarser kind. Pure gold foil which has never had a successful rival, is about the same to-day that it was twenty-five or fifty years ago. ~~To try to improve it would be like gilding refined~~