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Attitude of the Dentist Towards His Patient.*

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In this progressive age, when we are making such rapid strides in practical improvements, our professional energies are naturally occupied in keeping pace with the new ideas that are ever being advanced in the practical part of our work. But is it not wise to sometimes call a halt in this race with crowns, bridge-work, abscesses, and the numerous other cases ever before us, and just for a moment take a glance at ourselves personally, and ask how we are carrying ourselves before the world—how our professional standing compares with that of our brethren round about us? What is our general attitude and demeanor before our patients? and last, but not of least importance, with what amount of respect (professionally and otherwise) do our regular patients, month after month, deign to treat us?

These are questions that ever and again come to the thoughtful and ambitious man, whatever his profession may be. But you naturally ask, "What has all this to do with the success or failure of the modern and practical dentist?" I answer at once, a great deal. If there is a calling in life in this age in which good manners, gentlemanly address, quiet dignity and professional self-respect form many of the rungs in the ladder of success, that calling is surely dentistry. Here it is where the true gentleman stands head and shoulders above his confreres; here it is where the really educated man shows to best advantage, and here especially is where

* Read before the Toronto Dental Society.